

## New Library Management and Discovery Systems Bring Changes to Fondren

In August, Fondren Library will join more than 1,000 academic libraries around the world who have implemented Alma as their library services platform. “Library systems have greatly changed in recent years,” said Denis Galvin, director of information technology at the library. “Alma was built from the ground up to make the best use of contemporary system architecture design.” Alma is thus designed for enhanced interoperability across computer systems, enabling easier connections to university systems like Banner and Canvas, as well as to other external systems used for the library’s daily operations.

For Fondren’s users, the most noticeable change will be the implementation of Primo, a companion system to Alma. Primo will serve as a one-stop resource for finding material, replacing the library’s current catalog and discovery system. Many students and researchers will have encountered Primo — which has been in use among the worldwide library community for more than a decade — at other institutions. Fondren’s users will benefit from a host of new features when using the new system, including the ability to save search queries and to filter materials, making it easier to find items in a specific format, including e-books, streaming videos and manuscript collections. The system will also offer a variety of

search options from the simple to the advanced, including the ability to browse via author, title or subject. Primo will also provide access to all of the library’s electronic journal holdings in a single interface.

A team of staff members has been working for months to customize the design of Primo. Staff and students in the user experience office have been conducting intensive testing among the university’s user groups and have adopted recommendations from many peer institutions. Still, Primo will be a big change for Fondren’s users, and many activities will require adjustment from current practices (see sidebar on p. 6). According to Sandi Edwards, assistant university librarian for research services, the library will be offering a number of training opportunities to familiarize users with Primo. “We want to ensure that all of our users are comfortable with the new system and can make the best use of it for their needs.” Users who wish to learn more about upcoming training opportunities related to Primo may contact [FondrenLearning@rice.edu](mailto:FondrenLearning@rice.edu).

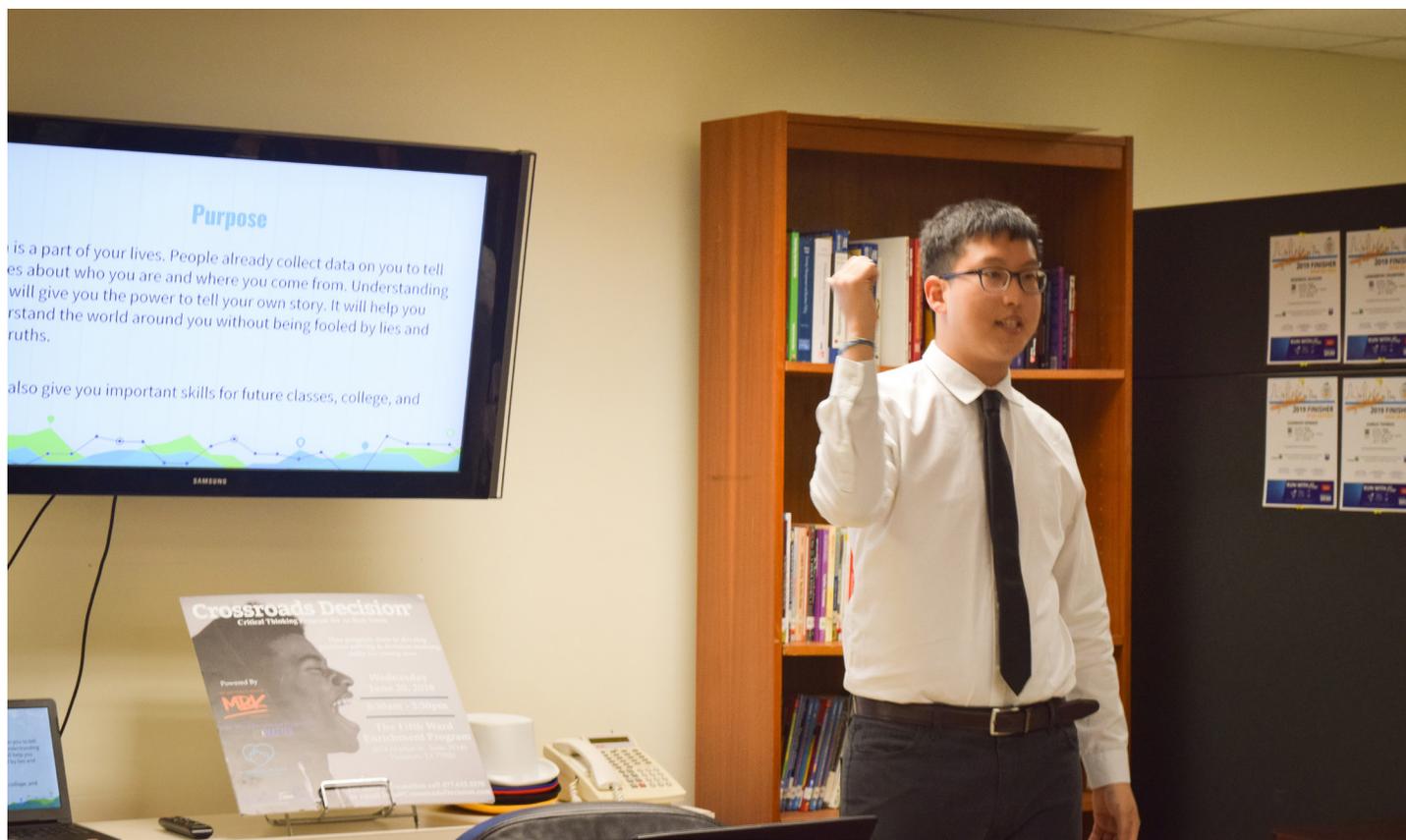
*David M. Bynog*  
Assistant Head of Acquisitions  
Co-chair, Alma/Primo Implementation Team

### CHECK IT OUT!

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**Fondren Library**



Daniel Koh '20, teaching fellow for the Civic Switchboard Field Award.

## Grant-Funded Data Literacy Workshops Pair Fondren and Kinder Institute

Fondren Library is partnering with Houston Community Data Connections of the Kinder Institute for Urban Research to develop and offer data literacy workshops for community and nonprofit organizations in the Houston area. The two organizations received a small Civic Switchboard Field Project Award to fund their partnership. Civic Switchboard: Connecting Libraries and Community Information Networks is an Institute of Museum and Library Services-supported effort that aims to develop the capacity of academic and public libraries in civic data ecosystems.

The first data literacy workshop took place March 27, 2019 in association with the Urban Enrichment Institute in the Fifth Ward, a youth leadership and development program for at-risk males. This workshop will continue to be offered to young men between the ages of 12 and 19. The workshop focuses on identifying what data is as well as how to use charts and mapping and how to find stories in data.

A second data literacy workshop is currently being planned to take place at a local library. The third workshop will use the information gathered from the two prior workshops to train individuals at local nonprofit organizations how to teach data literacy.

These workshops feed into Fondren Library's efforts to build data literacy on campus and in the local community. The workshops also support Fondren Library's strategic goals to work closely with research centers and institutes, engage with the Houston community and enhance Fondren's data services.

More information about Civic Switchboard can be found at <https://civic-switchboard.github.io>.

*Julia Kress*  
Senior Electronic Resources Assistant



## Symposium on Convict Leasing

On April 12, 2019, scholars gathered at Rice University for a daylong event organized by Caleb McDaniel, associate professor of history and historian of slavery, abolitionism, transatlantic reform and the 19th century United States. Entitled “Capitalism and Convict Leasing in the American South: A Symposium,” the symposium was free and open to the public and was co-sponsored by the Department of History, the Humanities Research Center and the Glasscock School of Continuing Studies at Rice University. According to McDaniel, the symposium aimed to shed greater light on the convict leasing system and how it influenced key elements of post-Civil War American history.

After the Civil War, Southern plantation owners and businessmen lost the low-cost labor force of slaves around which they had built an economy. The convict leasing system grew out of this environment. African Americans were arrested for minor crimes such as vagrancy or walking alongside railroad tracks, but were given felony-level sentences. The prisoners could then be leased to businesses to provide access to the low-cost, unregulated labor market once provided by slavery. Sugar Land was the main location of this practice in Texas.

In 2018, construction workers for Fort Bend ISD uncovered 95 unmarked graves, which forensic scientists determined dated from the convict leasing era, were African American and showed evidence of hard labor. These remains are understood to be the victims of convict leasing and are now known as the Sugar Land 95. This discovery continues to attract local, state and national media attention, including articles in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. The University of Houston also hosted panel discussions on the subject in March 2019.

Speakers at the Rice University symposium included Alex Lichtenstein, professor of history at Indiana University and the editor-in-chief of the *American Historical Review*; Talitha LeFlouria, associate professor in African and African American studies at the University of Virginia; Robert Perkinson, professor of American studies at the University of Hawaii, Manoa; and Megan Ming Francis, associate professor of political science at the University of Washington and director of the Washington Institute for the Study of Inequality and Race. The day began with opening remarks by Reginald Moore, founder of the Convict Leasing and Labor Project (CLLP) and concluded with a panel discussion featuring members of the CLLP and moderated by Lora Wildenthal, associate dean of humanities. The panel discussed the memorialization of convict leasing and focused specifically on the Sugar Land 95.

Moore’s archival collection in the Woodson Research Center, which reflects his community advocacy on these topics, has drawn many researchers in the past several years, as we strive to understand the convict leasing system and frame modern-day discourse about it.

*Amanda Focke*  
Assistant Head of Special Collections

## Got Feedback? Visit the Library Outreach Table



Fondren Library's user experience (UX) office held a series of pop-up tables at the Rice University Student Center starting in March and extending into early May. This outreach effort provided an opportunity for students, faculty and other users to ask questions about the library as well as for UX staff to highlight new services, e-books and upcoming library classes. Visitors to the table also completed quick usability tasks.

Fondren's UX office examines the ways our users experience libraries and how we can improve that experience. A major change to the library search system will be occurring in August 2019 and the outreach tables were useful in gathering user feedback about prototypes of the new interface and search functionality, in order to recommend improvements to the implementation team before the rollout.

Current UX office student workers Cory Fosmire '21 and Rodrigo Trujillo '20 helped staff the tables with Amanda Thomas, user experience/public services librarian, and me.

Fosmire, currently a Rice sophomore engineering division major, finds usability testing fascinating because "it provides an opportunity to discover and discuss our assumptions about how things ought to be." He also enjoys the practicality of usability testing, as it directly molds services and webpages to more ably meet students' needs.

Additional outreach tables will be held in the early part of the fall semester to answer questions about the new system and get additional feedback from the community.

*Debra Kolah  
Head of User Experience*

## Fondren Supports Voter Registration

For someone who has never voted before, navigating the laws around voting in the state of Texas can be confusing, or downright maddening, as I learned helping students register to vote at our Constitution Day event in 2018. The number of questions received while registering voters that day inspired me to hold several more voter registration and education events before the deadline Oct. 8. Business was brisk and we registered our last voter at 11:15 p.m. After the deadline, the nonpartisan student organization Rice Civic Duty held several voter education events in the library. The library's geographic location and its role as a gathering place on campus was a great fit for these events.

The library staff includes several Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrars (VDVRs) and several more are being certified this year, qualifying them to register voters through the end of 2020. We will be working with others on campus to develop a centralized directory of campus VDVRs, to better coordinate events that involve voter registration and outreach. And we are more excited than ever to be a part of the campuswide effort to ensure that the Rice community continues to increase its civic engagement.

*Amanda Thomas  
User Experience/Public Services Librarian*





## DMC Supporting Virtual Reality Work at Rice

The Digital Media Center (DMC) at Fondren is adding support for innovative technology that supports creating virtual reality environments. A new anthropology course, ANTH 426/626 Underground Spatialities, has enlisted my help in instructing students on the proper use of photography equipment, virtual reality, audio recorders, photogrammetry software and interactive multimedia software. Photogrammetry is a process by which many photos of a subject are taken from different angles then processed with software to make a 3D point cloud. This point cloud may then be viewed or triangulated into a 3D surface. Students visit three underground locations: the Rice underground tunnel system, the Buffalo Bayou Park Cistern and the natural bridge caverns near San Antonio. Students gain practical skills in managing their acquired data,

editing and processing that data, and finally presenting it in an interactive format. DMC staff are already familiar with many of these processes and, with help from Fondren information technology staff, are able to offer the Rice community options for photogrammetry. This process has applications in a number of areas, such as art and design, archaeology and cultural heritage work.

In addition to helping with the Underground Spatialities course, the DMC is also assisting ARCH 650 students to view their architectural designs in virtual reality environments. Allowing students to immerse themselves in realistic portrayals of their designs has proven to be a useful application of virtual reality technology. I work with the students to ensure their model is prepared for virtual reality software and provide

a guide for transferring the resulting file to a game engine. DMC support specialist Jonathan Rivera designs the digital environment to depict realistic landscapes while keeping the game optimized and running smoothly. Fondren information technology staff have played an important role in selecting and deploying equipment and managing logistics for this new offering. In the near future, a dedicated station at the DMC will allow students to reserve time to experiment with virtual reality and get help from DMC staff on their creative and academic projects.

*Mario Norton*  
DMC Supervisor

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# ExLibris Primo

## How Primo Will Affect Some Popular User Activities

- Permalinks (URLs) referencing items from Fondren's current Classic Catalog will change (Example: <https://rice.kanopy.com/video/company-town>); users may need to update bookmarks or materials that have incorporated such links.
- EndNote and Zotero citation software will require tweaking preference settings to find PDFs from Fondren's current holdings.
- Off-campus access will require a login to view and access search results that include Rice-only subscriptions.
- Users will be able to reserve equipment from the Digital Media Commons directly through Primo.
- Users will use the new Primo interface to renew, request and recall Fondren library material.
- Users will continue to use ILLiad on Fondren's website to request interlibrary loan material.
- More information about the upcoming changes can be found on the library's website at: <https://library.rice.edu/onesearch>



## Fondren Enhances PDFs for Accessibility

Starting this year, Fondren Library staff are working to enhance PDFs in the Rice Digital Scholarship Archive to make them accessible for people with disabilities.

Accessible PDFs are augmented by software that recognizes static images of text as searchable content, which then can be relayed via screen-readers, or software that identifies and interprets what is being displayed on the screen through assistive technology, such as text-to-speech applications or electromechanical devices that display braille.

Fondren's accessible PDFs are built with structural tags that define a document's proper reading order and provide alternative text for non-text elements, like images or embedded video. A PDF file does not intuitively know the correct order of its text, and many assistive technologies require such structured tags to interpret a document's contents. Restructuring and validating these PDFs also makes them more compatible for users who rely on mobile devices.

These efforts support Rice University's 2015 Strategic Plan for Accessibility, which recommended that all Rice educational activities and programs adhere to the best practices prescribed by Universal Design for Learning (UDL), a framework for improving teaching and learning environments. UDL guidelines recom-

mend "optimiz[ing] access to tools and assistive technologies." Likewise, Rice's Strategic Plan for Accessibility recommends that web content "should have a functional level of accessibility and work with the commonly available assistive technology in use on the campus."

Rice is one of many organizations pushing to make its web documents and content accessible to all. Last year, the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) — the international organization tasked with developing technology standards for the internet — published a revision of its Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, a recommendation addressing the accessibility of web content on desktops, laptops, tablets, and mobile devices. These recommendations can be viewed at <https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/>.

Promoting access for all is a core value in librarianship, and Fondren encourages its community of authors to upload accessible files to the Rice Digital Scholarship Archive. To learn more about creating accessible PDFs and for information on accessibility resources, please visit our library guide at <https://libguides.rice.edu/accessiblePDF>. For assistance with depositing accessible PDFs, contact us at [cds@rice.edu](mailto:cds@rice.edu).

*Monica Rivero*  
Digital Curation Coordinator

## New QR Codes at Fondren Library

Currently, Fondren Library has multiple QR codes located on the first floor for patron use. These QR codes may be scanned for a tour of the library, to suggest new book purchases and to provide feedback about Fondren.

The QR codes located at the east entrance desk and at the circulation desk may be scanned for an art and cultural objects tour of the library inside and out. The tour is available in English, Mandarin and Spanish, via audio or text, and is narrated by Molly Crownover, wife of Jim Crownover '65, former chairman of the board of trustees at Rice. The tour was set up and is maintained by Sheila Mayfield '18.

Another QR code is located in the leisure reading area in the south reading room. This code requires a login and may be scanned to suggest a leisure reading purchase. Fondren Library is looking for suggestions for recent popular fiction, nonfiction, humor, graphic novels and other light reading. Friends of Fondren and other users can email librarian Joe Goetz at jeg3@rice.edu with suggested purchases.

To make it easy for Fondren users to provide feedback about their experiences, a QR code is available in the display case near the south reading room, next to stair D. This code links to a customer satisfaction survey. Users may also email the user experience office with feedback at fondrenuxoffice@rice.edu.

To scan the QR codes with an iPhone, simply take a picture of the code to be taken immediately to the linked webpage. With an Android phone, you can take a picture of the code if your device has Google Now On Tap. If not, you will need to download a free QR code reader application before scanning the code with your phone.

*Julia Kress*  
Senior Electronic Resources Assistant

Fondren Audio Art Tour QR Code



## Student Journals at Fondren

At least seven student journals are published at Rice, but until recently there was not a central distribution point for them. Now, through a collaboration between Fondren Library and Rice's Inquiry-Based Learning, people can pick up copies of journals such as Catalyst and Rice Historical Review (RHR) from a rack currently at the east entrance to Fondren Library. As student journals are published (typically at the end of the spring semester), many will be available from the rack.

The distribution point is part of a larger effort to support student journal publishing at Rice. In February 2019, Inquiry-Based Learning and Fondren launched a group for student journal editors to talk about common challenges such as marketing. At an early meeting, Susann Glenn, director of communications for administration; Adam Cardenas, communications intern for Rice housing and dining; and Katharine Shilcutt, media relations specialist, discussed identifying target audiences, reaching them through social media and direct outreach, and setting the appropriate tone.

In addition to assisting with the group, the library archives student journals and offers guidance on copyright and other scholarly communications questions. An article in News From Fondren's Spring 2018 issue (p. 4-5) describes the library support provided for RHR and the skills students can develop through editing a journal.

As Caroline Quenemoen, associate dean of students and director of Inquiry-Based Learning, notes, "Undergraduate journals highlight the quality and variety of inquiry pursued at Rice and provide an important forum for editors and contributors to learn about the publication process and effective communication to a broader audience." Fondren is pleased to play a role in distributing student journals at Rice.

*Lisa Spiro*  
Executive Director, Digital Scholarship Services



# Sandi Edwards Assumes Broader Role at Fondren



I interviewed Sandi Edwards Feb. 18, 2019, about her new role as assistant university librarian for research services.

1. How has your experience prepared you for your new role?

My previous position evolved quite a bit under the previous incumbent in this position, Kerry Keck. I had an intermediary role with some collections and supervised the reference work of many of the same staff. I developed a good working knowledge of the collections and the librarians, managed larger funds, and coordinated cancellation and assessment projects. Management of the whole collections budget is a growth area. Many of the technical implementation aspects have moved to the acquisitions department — they do even more of the “how” while the “what” of collections-building remains in research services.

2. Your portfolio includes the reference department, access services (including Interlibrary loan or ILL) and the Library Service Center (LSC). Could you share a bit about how you see those areas working together to serve the Rice community?

It all comes down to providing access to what people need. Collection development and managing the LSC are ongoing. Access services maintains the collection and collaborates with LSC staff and ILL provides what we do not have. We also analyze ILL borrowing for possible purchases. A number of my previous duties are passing to a new reference coordinator, Mary Dumont Brower, including both scheduling visits and tours and managing the reference collection and its funds. She also continues as music librarian.

3. What do you see as the strengths of the services you are now managing?

Our information literacy and instruction efforts have expanded over the last several years, including collaboration with the Center for Academic and Professional Communication, First-year Writing Intensive Seminars, one-time visits to classrooms and Fondren 101. The LSC has expanded on its 15 years of excellent delivery service by adding article scanning to its duties. Collection development activities have built on our excellent collections to support new areas, strengthen communication with departments and otherwise respond to user needs. Cross-training of staff has ensured quick answers to basic reference questions as well as the in-depth help our users expect.

4. Could you say something about any new directions you see for the services you manage and for the library?

A new module for the LSC should ease crowding and allow us to make space for new functions in Fondren. Fondren is not alone in navigating complex pricing models with vendors of streaming video. Open access publishing options offer new opportunities for Fondren to support Rice scholarship.

5. What are the library’s primary sources of information about what the Rice community needs, and how do you go about using that information?

Our best sources are users: faculty, graduate students and undergraduates. We welcome complaints, suggestions and all expressions of need. Our liaison roles with academic departments have been expanded to include centers and nonacademic departments. As physical circulation rates decline nationwide, we may review certain restrictions on access and circulation. Our new library

## New Senior Metadata Assistant

system, due Aug. 1, is prompting a full review of our circulation policies.

6. You have been involved over the years in the library's outreach to the non-Rice community, for example, in coordinating high school tours and study events. How do you see the balance as Fondren serves both Rice and the Greater Houston community?

We are always balancing physical resources and staff time as we fulfill Rice's outreach aspirations. Both the Rice charter and the V2C2, as well as our status as a federal depository library, support a strong role in the broader community. We love seeing young students visit Rice and find armloads of books for their high school research. At the same time, we know that professors need our attention, whether one time or over the course of a semester, whether planned or on short notice. We are constantly juggling these priorities and continue to find Fondren's meaning and purpose in them.

*Melinda Reagor Flannery*  
Assistant University Librarian for Technical Services



Thumy Webb is not a new face in cataloging and metadata services, but she is in a new position. She originally came to the department in March 2018 in a temporary position working on the WEST project, through which Rice collaborates with a consortium of libraries to store print copies of scholarly journals. In the fall, she accepted a regular position as senior metadata assistant. Her job involves cataloging primarily foreign language items, and she is currently also working on a project involving electronic resources. Another duty is cataloging gift materials for the Woodson Research Center.

As a former resident of Hawaii, Webb received her undergraduate degree in mathematics and later her master's degree in library science from the University of Hawaii in Honolulu. She came to Houston with her husband, Tim, and their dog Peanut in August 2017, just in time to experience Hurricane Harvey. She is impressed by the people here — how nice they all were and their ability to come together in a time of crisis. She has come to love the city, its food and its many cultures.

Never having been a baseball fan, Webb developed a huge crush on the Astros and followed their national championship race. She has invited other staff fans to visit her and share Astros fan stories.

*Debra Cosby*  
Administrative Assistant, Technical Services

# A Rice Institute Doughboy and a French Poilu: Remembering World War I

From Feb. 1 to March 31, 2019, Fondren Library displayed the exhibit “100: The Great War Seen through the Eyes of Two Soldiers” curated by the French association Le Cercle de Valmont in collaboration with the Woodson Research Center. The exhibit featured previously unpublished artifacts, a scrapbook detailing an American soldier’s experience and black-and-white photographs documenting a French soldier’s time during the Great War.

James “Jimmie” S. Waters, Jr. attended Rice Institute, receiving a B.S. in electrical engineering, but skipped his 1918 graduation in order to enlist in the war. Waters’ wife, Pauline Lackner Waters, put together the scrapbook, which was donated to the Woodson Research Center after Waters taught engineering at Rice for 45 years. The scrapbook can be downloaded at <https://scholarship.rice.edu/handle/1911/95189>. The World War I photographs in the exhibit were taken by a French soldier, Paul Gueneau. The two soldiers were almost the same age but served at different times during the war. However, by combining Waters’



© Family Gueneau

scrapbook with Gueneau’s photographs, we get a unique perspective on World War I, 100 years later.

Waters, a native of Galveston, served from June 1918 to June 1919 in the Corps of Engineers with the 360th Regiment, 90th Division. He was the commander of a combat platoon in the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne campaigns, resulting in his promotion to the rank of first lieutenant. Waters also served in occupied Germany after the armistice.

Gueneau, who was from the region of Nevers, France, served from Dec. 1914 until Sept. 4, 1918 with the 56th Infantry Regiment. He was part of the infamous Battle of Verdun. He was injured by mustard gas during battle and was unable to return to combat only months before the armistice.

When Gueneau left for the front at age 19, he brought with him the first commercialized pocket camera, the Kodak Vest Pocket. Gueneau’s 19 photographs displayed in the exhibit are rare as they capture the infantrymen (poilus) not only in the trenches, but also relaxing and even playing. The French government highly restricted the publication of war photographs and specifically censored those showing the soldiers relaxing. Two photographs in the exhibit reflect daily life for the soldiers — a shot of two soldiers holding kittens in front of a food pantry and one capturing the soldiers in a snowball fight.

Gueneau’s granddaughter, Pulcherie Gueneau de Novoa, who lives in Houston, wanted to share photographs from her family archive and reached out to G. Daniel Cohen, a Rice professor of history, who connected her with the Woodson



© Family Gueneau

Research Center. Ultimately, de Novoa arranged an exhibit in Pont St. Esprit, France the week of Nov. 11, 2018 featuring reproductions from Waters’ scrapbook and the later exhibit at Fondren Library, with help from sponsors Société Générale and Hexagroup. She also applied for and received the official recognition of the French Mission Centenaire and the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission for both exhibits. The Rice exhibit also briefly covered minority, immigrant and other Rice participants in the war effort. For more information, please contact de Novoa at [pulcherie@alumni.princeton.edu](mailto:pulcherie@alumni.princeton.edu).

(Additional exhibit coverage can be found at <https://www.chron.com/local/bayou-city-history/article/Lives-of-two-WWI-soldiers-featured-in-exhibit-at-13677290.php>.)

*Julia Kress*  
Senior Electronic Resources Assistant



## Cherry Reading Series Brings Author Kiese Laymon and Others to Rice

Since its establishment in 1991, Fondren Library's Robert Foster Cherry '30 Endowment has funded the Cherry Reading Series to bring esteemed authors to Rice for public readings and discussions with students. This year is shaping up to be a banner year for the series, beginning with a visit from author Kiese Laymon Feb. 5.

Laymon's latest book, "Heavy," was awarded the 2019 Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction and was included on many news sources' lists for best books of the year, including *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. Rice's Assistant Professor of Creative Writing Lacy M. Johnson has written that "Heavy" asks, "how to survive in a body despite the many violences that are inflicted upon it: the violence of racism, of misogyny, of history — the violence of a culture that treats the bodies of black men with fear and suspicion more often than with tenderness and attentive care ... Permeated with humility, bravery,

and a bold intersectional feminism, 'Heavy' is a triumph." After Johnson's introduction, Laymon, currently the Otilie Schillig Professor of English and Creative Writing at the University of Mississippi, read the chapter "Be" from "Heavy" then answered questions from a large, highly engaged audience. (For an account of this event, see the Feb. 12, 2019, *Thresher* article at [www.ricethresher.org](http://www.ricethresher.org).)

In addition to his reading, Laymon visited Rice creative nonfiction students in class, where he answered questions about the writerly life, including writing a memoir and the public exposure that can come with writing a personal history. Johnson reports that, far from the aloof famous writer some had expected, Laymon struck students with his candor and generosity.

According to Johnson, the Cherry Reading Series enables students to "connect the work they're doing here on campus with writers practicing and working in the wider world." For

aspiring writers at the beginning of their path, the visiting authors "offer models for how to make that passion work as a career and as a vocation." Not only Rice students but the broader community benefits from the series, as members of the public see "the work we honor and value here on campus," while we on campus benefit in turn from greater community engagement.

Poets Jennifer Chang and Michael Collier and fiction writer Karen Thompson Walker also visited Rice this spring. In addition to the reading series, the Cherry Endowment funds the library's collection of contemporary literature, enabling the purchase of many new books of nonfiction, fiction and poetry every year. Inside each book cover is a plate acknowledging the endowment's ongoing benefits to our community.

*Joe Goetz*  
Reference/Collection Development Librarian

# Cataloging Fondren's Tibetan Looseleaf Books



Visiting Abbot Khenpo Nyima Rinpoche (L) with Geshe Denma Gyaltzen (R)

Fondren Library has embarked on a project to catalog a trove of rare looseleaf books (pechas) belonging to the Bön tradition, the indigenous religion of Tibet that predates the spread of Buddhism there. According to Bön's founding texts, it originated in the mythical land of Olmo Lungring and flourished in the kingdom of Zhang Zhung in Western Tibet. During the millennium following the arrival of Buddhism, the Bön tradition significantly changed and evolved, but scholars are still working to determine the extent and exact nature of the interaction.

During the destruction wrought by the Chinese Cultural Revolution, many rare and precious manuscripts belonging to all religious traditions of Tibet were lost or dispersed. Efforts to collect, organize and publish the works of the Bön canon have accelerated in the past two decades, but much work remains to be done. On a research trip to Nepal several years ago, Anne Klein, professor of Tibetan religions at Rice, visited the Triten Norbutse monastery in Kathmandu. This is the residence of lineage master Lopön Tenzin Namdak Rinpoche, who later arranged for approximately 70 pechas to be donated to Fondren Library. These books were printed in India, Nepal and Tibet and belong to several genres, including biographies of important teachers (namthar), revealed works (gter ma) and commentaries.

A traditional Tibetan book consists of stacked oblong sheets of paper placed between wooden or cardboard covers and tied up with strings. Their shape is an homage to Indian manuscripts that were written on palm leaves.

The books are often wrapped in cloth as a gesture of respect as well as for protection — a function that, in modern libraries, is fulfilled by preservation boxes. In the past, they were printed from wooden blocks, but now pecha layouts are often created digitally.

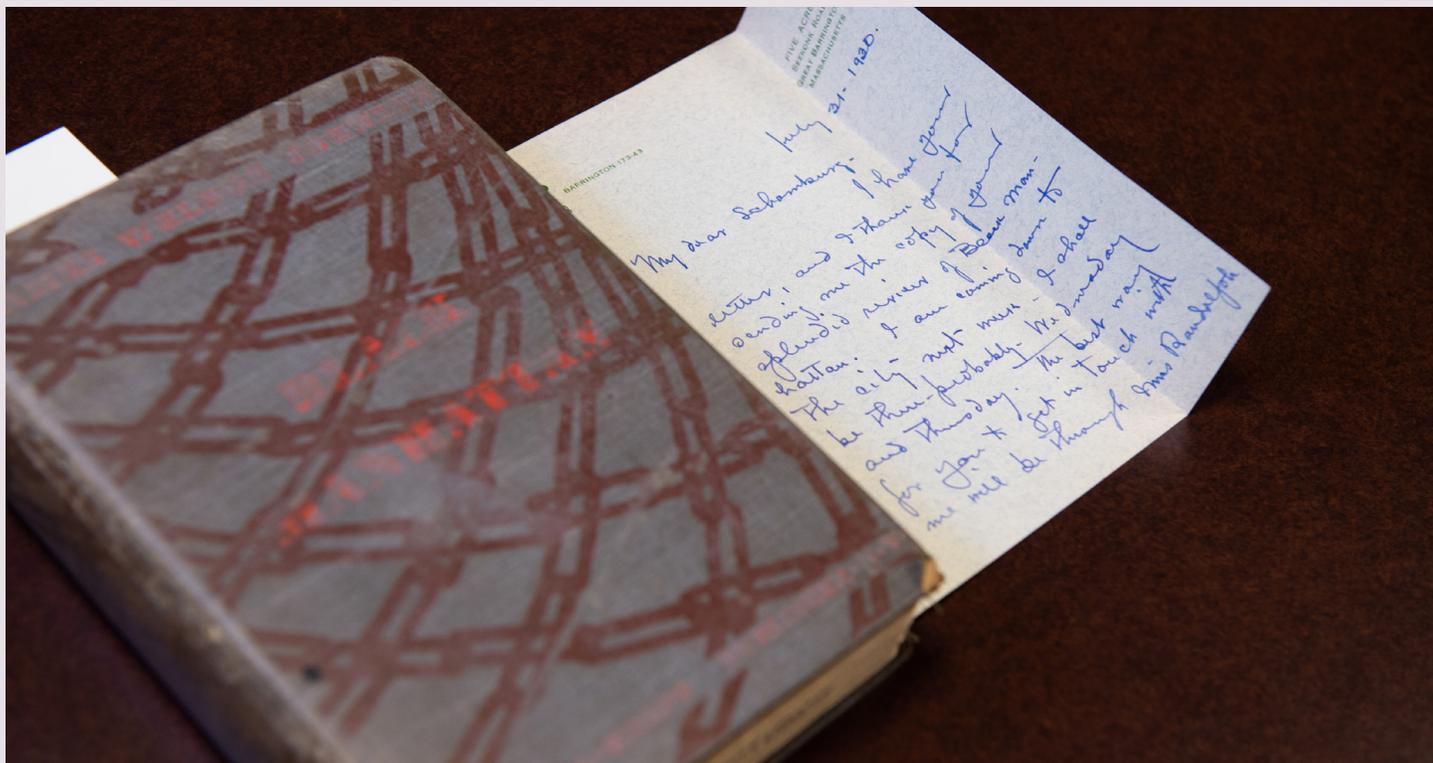
The Bön printing tradition is distinguished by a wide use of cursive scripts, unorthodox spellings, and copious abbreviations and ligatures. These features, combined with the fact that the Bön canon is relatively little studied, present additional challenges to cataloging these materials.

Fortunately, the ideal person to provide expert help lives here in Houston. Geshe Denma Gyaltzen, resident lama at Ligmincha Texas (a Bön monastery), is working with Fondren library staff to create original cataloging records. As a holder of the Geshe degree, the Tibetan equivalent of a Ph.D. in theology, he is exceptionally well-versed in the texts of the Bön tradition. "As soon as I saw this collection," Geshe Denma said, "I realized that these books were waiting for me."

The processing of the pechas is expected to be completed this fall, with the books available for researchers in winter 2019. They will be housed in the Library Service Center and searchable as the "Triten Norbutse Bön book collection."

*Anna Shparberg  
Reference/Collection Development Librarian*

# The Saga of Schomburg's 'Black Manhattan'



Relying on the library's copy for a class assignment, English graduate student Brenna Ram checked out James Weldon Johnson's "Black Manhattan." At a later meeting with her professor, Nicole Waligora-Davis, they discovered a letter pasted onto the last page. The letter addressed to Schomburg, thanks him for his recent review of "Black Manhattan" and promises a future meeting in New York. The signature at the end is simply Johnson.

Waligora-Davis quickly surmised that Arturo Alfonso Schomburg pasted the letter from James Weldon Johnson into the book. Not only does the letter provide a signature of Johnson, but it is written on stationery containing the address of his writing retreat. This book came from Schomburg's personal library.

Arturo Alfonso Schomburg (1874–1938) was a book and art collector. His collection focused on the African American and Afro Latin American experience. In 1926, Schomburg donated his book and art collection to the New York Public Library's Division of Negro Literature, History and Prints. He later became the curator of the collection from 1932–1938. The division was renamed the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. The letter writer, James Weldon Johnson, was a prolific literary author and a member of the famed Harlem Renaissance. In addition, Johnson served as the executive secretary,

effectively the operating officer of the NAACP, the first African American in that position, from 1920 to 1930.

So how did this book and its letter end up at Rice? To answer this question, we asked Melissa Kean, centennial historian, for her sleuthing help. Looking through records of the Rice Institute Library under the stewardship of Alice Dean, Kean found that book requests, arrivals and specific location codes were meticulously tracked. Later, then-volunteer Dean recorded only the arrival date of "Black Manhattan" somewhere between March 12 and March 20 of 1953. The rapid expansion of Fondren's collections or, possibly, Dean's access to information as a volunteer could explain the drop in detail.

Thus, this little mystery remains one. Why Schomburg's personal copy ended up far away from home remains unclear. The answer could be found in the character of the man. According to Allison Hughes, an archivist at the Schomburg Center, Schomburg was famous for lending his books. His generosity caused this pearl to appear in our general stacks. For long-term protection, Schomburg's copy is now housed in the Woodson Research Center.

*Norie Guthrie*  
Archivist/Special Collections Librarian

# Friends of Fondren Library Gala



L to R: Co-chairs Amy and Robert Taylor with Honorees Bobby and Phoebe Tudor

The 2019 Friends of Fondren Library Gala was held March 22 at River Oaks Country Club. Amy and Robert Taylor '74 chaired the elegant evening, bringing together library supporters to celebrate the organization's achievements and the library's future.

In his welcome to guests, President David Leebron called for the university to build into the future so that Fondren Library remains the very heart of campus as an intellectual and collaborative community. Bess Wareing '82, Friends of Fondren Library president, introduced the evening's honorees, Phoebe and Bobby Tudor '82, noting the numerous ways they support Rice University and Fondren Library with exemplary kindness, humility and grace.

Bobby Tudor graduated from Rice in 1982 and began a successful career in investment banking. Since

2013, he has served as chairman of the Rice University Board of Trustees, and he and Susie Glasscock '62 chaired the extraordinary \$1 billion-plus Centennial Campaign. Bobby and his wife, Phoebe, have served on the boards of many of Houston's cultural and civic organizations since moving to Houston in 1991. In addition to his work for Rice, Bobby has been or is on the boards of the Houston Symphony, MD Anderson, United Way and Society for the Performing Arts. Phoebe is on the boards of the Houston Ballet, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Hermann Park Conservancy, Houston Parks and the Astrodome Conservancy. She is involved with several Rice groups, including the Rice Design Alliance, Shepherd School of Music Governing Council, the William Ward Watkins Council for the RSA and the Moody Center Advisory Board. We appreciate all the Tudors do for Rice and for Houston.

This year's gala supported the new Friends of Fondren University Librarian's Endowment, generously founded in 2018 by Pat and Ira Gruber, the Harris Masterson Jr. Professor Emeritus of History, the proceeds of which will be directed as needed by the university librarian. The "Paddles Up" portion of the auction will underwrite Kanopy film streaming services for academic and research purposes across campus.

We offer our appreciation to everyone who supported this year's gala. We hope you will join us in 2020 for the 40th annual event.

*Mary Lowery  
Executive Director, Friends of Fondren  
Library*

## Honoring Rice's Authors, Editors, Composers and Artists



L to R: Kristin Necessary Brookhart, John H. Zammito, Lina Dib, Peter (Carl) Caldwell, Joshua Eyler

On Jan. 30, Friends of Fondren Library hosted a panel discussion and reception to honor Rice's authors, editors, composers and artists for the 2018 calendar year. Friends of Fondren Library board members Peter (Carl) Caldwell, the Samuel G. McCann Professor of History, and Kristin Necessary Brookhart '01 hosted this year's event in the Ley Student Center's Farnsworth Pavilion.

Caldwell moderated a fascinating discussion titled "Humanity and Biological Change: Conceptualizing the Natural World, The Biology of Learning, Altering the Living World." The three panelists addressed in different ways the relationship between humans, our living environment and learning, one through a history of the philosophy and theory of biology a century before Darwin, one through an analysis of the social and biological aspects of learning, and one through conceptual art that poses the problem of human/nature interactions in the present day.

John H. Zammito, the Baker College chair for history of science, technology and innovation, discussed his new work, "The Gestation of German Biology" (Chicago, 2017), the culmination of his decades of

research on German philosophy and philosophical traditions. Already in the 18th century, the clear distinction between man and nature was breaking down, he showed, as was the notion that nature itself was static and unchanging. As Zammito noted at the event, the project of "humanizing nature and naturalizing man" was connected to contemporaneous ideas of dynamic learning. Humans, in the great philosopher Herder's view, were animals oriented toward learning and adaptation, with a historically fixed rather than a God-given, static nature.

Joshua Eyler, the director of the Center for Teaching Excellence and adjunct associate professor of humanities, elucidated the dynamic process of learning as he described his new book, "How Humans Learn: The Science and Stories Behind Human Learning" (Morgantown, 2018). Not unlike Herder, anthropologists and scientists today stress the way observing and questioning, exploring and experimenting are part of human nature already in small children, which Professor Eyler has observed both in the classroom and with his own child. The task for educators is to stimulate this enthusiasm rather than try to suppress it.

Lina Dib, research fellow at the Center for Energy and Environmental Research in the Human Sciences and lecturer in the Program in Writing and Communication, described her recent public art installations "Like There is No Tomorrow" and "Threshold." Just as the other two panelists blurred any clear boundary between humans and nature, Dib stressed how human actions are taking place within nature, altering nature and thereby affecting human nature. In one work, for example, walking in front of a video projection of coral reefs in the Gulf of Mexico whitened the reefs, a real process that involved killing organisms that make up a sensitive natural ecosystem.

Following the presentations by these three experts and scholars, discussion was lively and wide-ranging.

To nominate honorees for the 2019 event, please email their contact information and publication names to [fofl@rice.edu](mailto:fofl@rice.edu).

*Mary Lowery*  
Executive Director, Friends of Fondren Library

## NEWS from FONDREN

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### Editor

Melinda Reagor Flannery

### Newsletter Committee

Scott Carlson  
Debra Cosby  
Debra Kolah  
Julia Kress  
Mary Lowery

### Photographers

Jenny Antill  
Jeff Fitlow  
Paul Gueneau  
Julia Kress  
Mary Lowery  
Mario Norton  
Callum Parks  
Amanda Thomas  
Katie Floyd Wang  
Jane Zhao

### Proofing

Joe Hatfield

### For information, contact

Melinda Reagor Flannery  
Rice University  
Fondren Library—MS 44  
P.O. Box 1892  
Houston, TX 77251-1892  
713-348-3773  
reagor@rice.edu

### Fondren Library

website: [library.rice.edu](http://library.rice.edu)  
twitter: @fondrenlibrary



Portrait of First Rice Librarian, Alice Dean, Arrives at Fondren Library

The portrait circa 1925 was executed in oil by John Clark Tidden, instructor in architectural drawing and painting at Rice from 1914 to 1925. It was restored and gifted to Fondren Library in 2018 by Dean's great-nephew, Edward L. Summers '59.