One of India’s oldest religions, Jainism (the teaching of the Jinas or spiritual victors) speaks with timeless relevance to the ethical dilemmas of our modern world. Of particular importance is the concept of ahimsa, or avoiding harm to everything that lives. While present in all indigenous traditions of India, ahimsa finds its ultimate expression in the philosophy of Jainism. Two other Jain concepts of note are anekantavada (many-sided view), which teaches that the ultimate truth is best understood through approaching it from many different angles, and aparigraha (nonattachment to material possessions).

Historically, Jainism has attracted far less public and scholarly attention in the West than its related traditions, Hinduism and Buddhism. There are relatively few institutions in the United States that offer courses in Jain studies, and only a handful of academic libraries have significant Jain studies collections.

In order to foster better awareness of this tradition, the Jain community and academia have, in the last few years, collaborated to create a number of academic positions in Jain studies at universities nationwide. At Rice University, these efforts culminated in 2016 with the establishment of the Bhagwan Mahavir/Chao Family Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship in Jain Studies.

In response to the creation of the Jain studies program, Fondren Library has stepped up its acquisition of Jain studies materials. The growth of the library’s Jain holdings was achieved both through an emphasis on purchasing more books and periodicals and through receiving significant gift collections from the community.

In spring 2017, Ravi and Sulekh Jain donated to Fondren Library their private collection of more than 400 book and periodical titles. These materials are in a mix of Western and Indian languages, such as Sanskrit, Hindi and Gujarati, and include devotional and educational publications that are not commonly collected by libraries. Another important recent acquisition is the complete library of the Jain Center of Houston, which should become accessible to scholars in fall 2018.

Fondren Library also recently hosted the exhibit “Structures of Striving” on Jain temple architecture. This exhibit was assembled by the first Bhagwan Mahavir Fellow, Brianne Donaldson, and was on view on the first floor of the library in early spring 2018.

Anna Shparberg
Reference Librarian
Humanitarian Mapathon

Fondren Library was a co-sponsor of Rice’s first humanitarian Mapathon held on GIS Day, Nov. 15, 2017. Humanitarian Mapathons have been held around the world to support disaster management or recovery missions.

Undergraduate Sonia Torres ’19 asked for support from the GIS/Data Center and Kelley Center for Government Information, Data and Geospatial Services in planning the Mapathon. Torres led the planning and invited speaker Farhan Majid, a fellow in health and technology policy at the Baker Institute, to speak. Fondren staff helped with marketing and refreshments as well as during the event itself.

This Mapathon supported the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) by providing road maps in Uganda’s Rakia lake area. The mapping supports understanding of the location of communities and their road systems to support optimal location of HIV/AIDS services. The mappers traced roads that were visible on satellite images and included them as roads in the street map database only through this project. Additional Mapathons are planned.

Kathy Hart Weimer
Head, Kelley Center for Government Information, Data and Geospatial Services

Errata in the Fall 2017 Issue


On Page 10, in the right-hand photograph caption, Sam Johnson was misidentified as Sam Spiro and Lucy Johnson was misidentified as Lucy Spiro.

Michael Duke should have appeared on the back cover in the list of photographers.
Who Can Forget Harvey?

Members of Fondren Library are collaborating with libraries and archives in the Greater Houston area to build a digital archive housing memories and ephemera related to the destruction caused by Hurricane Harvey.

Between Aug. 17 and Sept. 1, 2017, Tropical Storm Harvey — which rapidly intensified into Hurricane Harvey — crisscrossed the southeast shore of Texas. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Harvey directly caused 68 deaths in Texas, with 36 casualties in Harris County alone. These counts make Harvey the deadliest American hurricane in terms of direct deaths since Hurricane Sandy in 2012 and the deadliest hurricane overall to hit Texas since 1919. A January 2018 report by NOAA estimated the damage from Harvey at $125 billion, with over 300,000 structures and up to 500,000 cars reported flooded in southeastern Texas. In addition, more than 300,000 customers lost power during the weather event and an estimated 40,000 were evacuated or took refuge in shelters across Texas and Louisiana.

Behind those statistics are thousands of stories of loss, trauma, recovery and resilience, as well as photos, amateur video and social media posts. In the aftermath of the hurricane, a dialogue developed among Rice, the University of Houston Libraries, Harris County Public Libraries and Houston Public Libraries about how the libraries and archives of the Greater Houston metropolitan area might build a digital archive to help people share their Harvey stories.

Meetings about the project — dubbed the Harvey Memories Project (HMP) — began in September 2017. By December, the HMP team was awarded a grant through the Rice Houston Engagement and Recovery Effort (HERE), a project to strengthen the sustainability of the city of Houston and its surrounding areas following Harvey’s devastation. The HERE committee, appointed by President David Leebron and Provost Marie Lynn Miranda, selected recipients on the significance and potential impact of the projects as well as their potential service to the city.

While the HMP is still at an early stage of development, the project’s goal will be to collect personal narratives, photos, audio, video and other digital objects about the experience of Harvey. Its core values include a focus on the community, diversity, compassion and sustainability. Questions about the project and requests for more information can be sent to harveymemories@rice.edu.

Scott Carlson
Metadata Coordinator

Lisa Spiro
Executive Director, Digital Scholarship Services
In spring 2015, Mary Charlotte Carroll ’16 floated an idea to her friend and fellow history major Rachel Landsman ’16: what if they started an undergraduate history journal at Rice? They had received a number of calls for papers from undergraduate history journals at other universities and wondered why Rice didn’t have a similar journal. Both were excited by the opportunity to showcase the work of their peers, demonstrate the excellence of the humanities at Rice (particularly the history department) and take on a compelling challenge. As Landsman recalled, “What drew us to the idea of Rice’s own journal was an interest in the editorial process: creating a vision for an entire issue, selecting papers for publication and working with our peers to make it happen…”

While Carroll and Landsman shared a strong vision and commitment, they were a bit daunted by the challenge of creating a new journal, especially since they wanted to release the first issue before they graduated in spring 2016. As Carroll noted, “Without any real blueprint after which to pattern ourselves, we would need to find funding sources, design the journal’s layout, decide on a name, create a website, solicit submissions, vote on pieces to publish, edit those pieces and shepherd the journal through the printing process. Daunting.” Others on campus were eager to help them navigate such challenges. After contact with Carroll and Landsman, Lisa Balabanlilar (then chair of undergraduate studies) and Alida Metcalf (then chair of the history department) approached me about assisting with the journal. I had served as the managing editor of Postmodern Culture and had even written a book chapter that examined the benefits of involving students in publishing, so I enthusiastically agreed. In addition, this collaboration seemed like a great opportunity to advance the library’s goal of supporting new approaches to scholarly publishing. With the support of the history department, I decided to offer a course to help students learn about core concepts such as peer review and publishing ethics, give them a structure for developing the journal and make them accountable.

Beginning in fall 2015, I taught (and continue to teach) a two-hour, credit/no credit history course focused on academic publishing. So that students understand best practices in publishing and get connected to the rich publishing community at Rice, the class hosts guests such as journal editors and marketing experts. Students learn by doing — they create and circulate a call for submissions; review submissions; communicate with authors and peer reviewers; copy edit articles; design, lay out and promote the journal. Seven students participated in the founding editorial board, taking on roles such as editor-in-chief, managing editor and director of publishing. During the first year, students faced the additional challenges of defining the journal’s scope, securing funding, creating a design template and picking out a name. The editorial board decided that the Rice Historical Review (RHR) would be open access, which means that it is freely available and that its content can be reused, provided that it is properly cited. They published the first issue in April 2016, releasing it at a launch party attended by history faculty, authors, donors and other supporters.

In reflecting on how they were able to create and publish a journal in just two semesters, Carroll and Landsman credit the contributions of the student editorial board and the support of faculty and staff at Rice. Student board members both applied existing skills and developed new ones, taking responsibility for peer review, copy editing, design, outreach and project management. Members
of the history department not only provided encouragement and advice, but also reviewed submissions. As Landsman said, “Working with professors on the journal was such great fun — my professors weren’t just teachers, but also became mentors and collaborators.” By consulting with editorial staff from journals such as Studies in English Literature, Journal of Southern History and Cultural Anthropology, the student editorial board learned how to run a high quality journal. The Center for Civic Leadership, the Dr. Bill Wilson Student Initiative Grant and the history department funded the journal.

One of the goals of the founding editorial board was to create an enduring legacy for the university. While the 2016–2017 student editorial board included several members who were also part of the founding board, the 2017–2018 board has no one from that initial group. But its members — now numbering nine — remain committed to the journal’s founding vision even as they shape its continued evolution. This year, the journal received 35 submissions for only 6 spots, the most submissions to date. Beginning in spring 2017, the journal created podcasts in which students and faculty discuss historical questions, crafting episodes on the “German SPD and Migrant Crisis” and “Themes in Mughal Imperial Identity,” with more in the works (episodes at https://soundcloud.com/user-176468700). Next year the RHR plans to open up submissions to students from across the world. The RHR is also expanding its partnership with the history department and helped to promote a lecture on women’s history.

In April 2018, the RHR plans to publish its third issue, with a limited number of print copies. The journal also is available online at http://www.ricehistoricalreview.org/. Fondren Library archives print issues of the journal in the Woodson Research Center and digital versions in the Rice Digital Scholarship Archive (RDSA)(https://scholarship.rice.edu/handle/1911/92659). Through the RDSA, Fondren also provides articles with digital object identifiers, which are stable web addresses that facilitate citation.

Through their work on the journal, students not only get the satisfaction of producing a publication that showcases the best historical writing by Rice undergraduates, but they also learn about the publishing process, how to evaluate and improve academic essays, how to collaborate and how to manage complex projects. As current editor-in-chief Daniel Russell commented, “Working on the RHR has given me a greater appreciation for the process of academic publishing.” Landsman noted, “Working with my peers to make something from nothing was such a thrill. We learned from each other, and everyone brought something different to the table.” Carroll added, “As the editorial board worked together to get it off the ground, I developed both leadership and organizational skills, and when we began our first foray into the peer review process, I gained invaluable editing skills, which I continue to rely on as a law student and current member of the editorial board of the Yale Law and Policy Review. The RHR helped me learn how to seriously engage with academic scholarship and contributed to my decision to pursue graduate school after leaving Rice.”

Carroll and Landsman said that founding the RHR ranks as a special part of their Rice experiences. As Landsman noted, by looking at an issue of the journal, “You can see the diversity of both the topics and the students, you can see how undergraduates are taking initiative and taking charge of their own learning by choosing projects about which they are passionate and you can see the incredible support the faculty provides (on the front end, by helping student authors develop their papers, and on the back end, by helping journal editors with the review process). I think now, if someone asks me why I loved being a history major at Rice, I can hand them a copy of the journal as an answer.”

Lisa Spiro
Executive Director, Digital Scholarship Services
Fondren Library co-sponsored the annual LOEX Conference on library instruction and information literacy, held in Houston May 3–5, 2018. LOEX (Library Orientation Exchange) is a national organization for librarians to share practical guidance and research on instruction. The 2018 conference title, referring to NASA and the space program, was “New Frontiers: Exploring and Innovating in Uncharted Territory.”

At this conference, librarians delivered workshops and seminars on such topics as integrating library research skills into university curricula, using new software and games in library classes, big data and the spread of fake news. Rice’s own Mikki Hebl, the Martha and Henry Malcolm Lovett Chair of Psychology and professor of psychology and management, delivered a plenary talk on interpersonal discrimination and subtle bias, and how they can be reduced through strategies and awareness. As librarians play an important role in providing needed information, understanding how bias may influence our interactions with students and other patrons is essential.

I served on the conference planning committee; access services associate DaVian Smith also attended the conference. For many, LOEX is an essential conduit for the latest discussions and findings on concerns specific to library instruction. By supporting this conference, Fondren aided in the dissemination of new research and best practices for this important aspect of our mission.

Joe Goetz
Information Literacy Librarian

According to research by former Fondren Fellow Eslam Elshahat, Rice graduate students need to know more about how to manage their research data. Rice’s Research Data Services team developed a new training series to meet this need: Data and Donuts.

Modeled after similar programs at the University of Texas and Colorado State University, the Data and Donuts series offers hands-on workshops on topics such as organizing and sharing data, cleaning data with Open Refine and managing research using the Open Science Framework. Through partnerships with the Digital Media Commons and the Center for Written, Oral and Visual Communication and the Digital Media Commons, the Data and Donuts series also features workshops on data visualization and the visualization software Tableau. In addition to developing new skills and knowledge, participants enjoy the sweet reward of free donuts.


Lisa Spiro
Executive Director, Digital Scholarship Services
Fondren Digital Object Identifier Services

In fall 2017, Fondren Library became a member of DataCite, an international non-profit organization that provides digital object identifiers (DOIs) for research data and other publications.

A DOI is a unique alphanumeric identifier assigned to digital content. Unlike a standard URL, a DOI is not associated with the publication's location online. Rather, it is associated with the publication's content. As a result, the DOI can remain stable even if the publication's URL or metadata changes. This convention helps promote citation of online content and helps readers locate publications. DOIs are widely used in scholarly publishing; over 120 million DOIs have been assigned worldwide.

As a DataCite member, Fondren can facilitate DOI assignment to content in library-managed repositories (e.g., Rice Digital Scholarship Archive) and other university-managed platforms that are committed to long-term preservation and access.

Two recent projects have helped Fondren's Digital Scholarship Services navigate the workflows of DOI assignment both in-house and through a nonlibrary platform. The first DOIs in the Rice Digital Scholarship Archive were assigned to the first two issues of the Rice Historical Review, an undergraduate history journal at https://scholarship.rice.edu/handle/1911/92659. The Kinder Institute for Urban Research has partnered with Fondren to assign DOIs to some public datasets on its new Urban Data Platform at https://kinder.rice.edu/UrbanData/.

To learn more about Fondren's DOI services, visit http://bit.ly/FondrenDOI and visit DataCite at https://www.datacite.org/index.html.

Shannon Kipphut-Smith
Scholarly Communications Liaison

Increased Visibility for Reporting E-resources Problems

In the university’s 2017 Survey of All Students, we asked students how they would prefer to report issues with an electronic resource. Undergraduate and graduate students’ first preference was email, with an online form as the second alternative.

Knowing this, how could we better serve student needs?

With the help of Jeff Koffler, web developer/graphic designer, and support of Scott Vieira, electronic resources librarian, links to either email the e-resources mailing list for problem-solving or use our Contact Us form were added to EbscoHost, Proquest, the A-Z Databases page and the Bento Box search results page.

Late semester, formal usability testing should determine whether these new links make a difference in reporting behavior.

Amanda Thomas
User Experience/Public Services Librarian
New and Improved Services

The Fondren Owl Perks Guide is part of a larger online effort through which the university’s human resources department will highlight discounts and other benefits for Rice employees. The guide provides access to library resources and services of interest to this broader community of Rice ID holders.

Designed by Fondren’s Committee on Marketing and Customer Service (CMACS), the guide provides user-friendly access to the valuable library resources available online and in the library itself. Users will learn about Fondren’s streaming film and music collections, current fiction and leisure reading books, online periodicals, and research and homework help, plus information about classes and equipment. A slide show of unique spaces also helps to promote the library as a beautiful place to work, relax and enjoy everything Fondren has to offer. The guide can be accessed directly at http://libguides.rice.edu/OwlPerks.

Jeanette Sewell
Database and Metadata Management Coordinator

Fondren Library continually works with the Fondren Library Student Ambassadors and departments across campus to get ideas for new services in the library. Additionally, student feedback from the annual Survey of All Students provides guidance on areas to improve.

Office Supplies

Student surveys always mention the need for office supplies. In fall 2017, the Fondren UX Office, in collaboration with access services, created an office supply area on the first floor near the printers. Stocked daily, this area provides paper clips and scratch paper as well as library pens, markers, highlighters, staplers, scissors and paper cutters.

Color Printing at the First-Floor Computers

For many years, Fondren Library has offered color printing in the Digital Media Commons, located in the basement of the library. Color printing is now also available on the first floor of the library, extending the hours available to students. A Rice University netID is needed to use this service, which is primarily intended for students. A feature of this new service is the ability to have a résumé printed out on professional paper by selecting the résumé/thesis printer.

Increased Wi-Fi Coverage

In fall 2017, Rice’s Office of Information Technology strengthened Fondren Library’s Wi-Fi coverage. The following areas were included: First-floor reading rooms, Second-floor balcony, Third floor, Sixth-floor Rice only study.

Diane Butler, associate vice president for the Office of Technology, shared, “As a result of feedback from students, the Office of Information Technology is pleased to partner with Fondren Library to improve the Wi-Fi experience in the library by adding more access points and moving the color printers from Mudd to Fondren so they will be more readily available.”

Diaper Changing Area

A diaper changing table has been installed in the all gender bathroom on the first floor of Fondren, near Room 156. “Fondren Library is open not only to the Rice community, many of whom are balancing work and/or school with raising children, but also to the general public,” said Amanda Thomas, Fondren’s user experience librarian. “I saw families with young children passing through the library each week and, having recently had my own child, I thought carefully about how to make them more comfortable while using our space.” In addition to the Mothers’ Room, located on the fourth floor of Fondren, the changing area helps meet the needs of visitors with infants.

Debra Kolah
Head of User Experience
Alice Rhoades spends her days at Fondren, cataloging the library’s continuing resources, but she spends her nights chasing younger men, dabbling in black magic and providing comic relief in between murders. All these activities require substantial effort and practice, but such are the sacrifices for her art. A professionally trained actress, Rhoades graduated from Baylor University with a degree in acting and pursued theater as a career in New York before turning to librarianship. Since coming to work at Fondren in 1999, she has remained engaged with Houston’s vibrant theater scene, performing in more than two dozen area productions. “While I am not trying to make a living in the theater,” said Rhoades, “it is nice to remain active in my field, much as subject librarians keep current in their areas of expertise.”

Shakespeare is a specialty, and Rhoades has appeared in a number of plays with Baker Shakespeare. Working on these productions and others at Rice has generated respect for the commitment and professionalism that students on campus have for the theater. “Many students in these productions aren’t necessarily theater majors,” explained Rhoades, “and it always impresses me that they can juggle so many rigorous activities and still manage to be involved in a play. Rice students are pretty amazing.” Her positive experiences with Baker Shakespeare led to her becoming an associate at the college, where she assists with theater activities both behind the scenes and on stage.

Mentoring and collaborating with students is a major attraction for Rhoades in on-campus productions. While an intern at the Alley Theatre during the 1970s, she learned the value of working with seasoned professionals and enjoys sharing her knowledge with younger actors.

Since Houston has a tight-knit theater community, Rhoades has often encountered former students who have continued with their passion for the theater: “It’s fun to act with former students who are now adults and see how they’ve grown.”

Houston’s diverse theater scene is another attraction and Rhoades has participated in events ranging from community productions of Gilbert and Sullivan to staged readings for local playwrights. She most recently appeared in March 2018 in an all-female version of Shakespeare’s “The Merry Wives of Windsor” with the Boiling Point Players. While Rhoades has also done some writing and directing, acting remains her main love: “I’d like to perform more than I am currently doing, but it’s hard working all day and then rehearsing all night.”

David M. Bynog
Assistant Head of Acquisitions
Elka Tenner retired from Fondren Library in December 2017. She came to Fondren in September 2001 as the collection development coordinator and humanities/social sciences librarian after work experiences at Texas A&M University Libraries, Loyola Law School’s Law Library and the University of Texas at El Paso.

Over the years, she coordinated special projects for the purchase of library materials and worked with YBP, EBSCO, ProQuest and other vendors to expand the Fondren Library collections. She also coordinated Fondren’s call to fill gaps in its serial holdings included in the Greater Western Library Alliance’s WEST project. Along with selection of materials and coordination of collection development, Tenner interacted with many faculty and students through her subject assignments over the years, including those in classics, Jewish studies, library science, philosophy, psychology, religious studies and sociology.

Tenner participated on numerous Fondren Library committees and special projects. Last year, along with Amanda Thomas, user experience/public services librarian, Tenner conducted ethnographic interviews to examine the religious studies faculty’s research techniques and behaviors. The information gathered from Rice faculty was folded into a larger Ithaka S+R report that resulted in a greater understanding of religious studies research behavior and needs as well as deepening relationships between the religious studies department and librarians. To read the report, go to https://bit.ly/2ko5ftp.

To her colleagues, Tenner was always a team player, integral to the cohesion of the department. She willingly traded or picked up desk hours when needed and supported her colleagues during their ups and downs. But, to really know Tenner was to know her sense of humor expressed through her legendary laugh. Everyone within earshot experienced her trademark laughter.

Her enthusiasm was pervasive, based on the sounds of hilarity coming from the conference room during vendor visits. The reference office area is noticeably quieter following her retirement.

Kathy Hart Weimer
Head, Kelley Center for Government Information, Data and Geospatial Services

Elka Tenner and Bob Sabin
Digital Media Commons Comeback

Northwest Houston native Jonathan Rivera ’15 is delighted to return to Fondren Library’s Digital Media Commons (DMC) as a digital media support specialist.

Rivera graduated from Rice with a double major in anthropology and visual and dramatic arts. When he wasn’t singing with his campus a cappella group the Apollos, during his sophomore and senior years, Rivera worked in the DMC. After graduating, Rivera spent two years with BWA Video, a company specializing in videography for law firms and legal services, where he contributed to a documentary about the Houston Young Lawyers Association.

However, a chance encounter with a familiar face from the DMC led to his return. He now assists members of the Rice community with digital media projects and runs workshops on topics such as Adobe’s Premiere Pro video-editing software. Rivera says his undergraduate experience at the DMC laid the foundation for a job helping people get excited about their own projects.

In his off time, Rivera still works in video production and enjoys a hobby in photography. However, his true passion is gaming, an interest that has crossed into video game development projects with his friends.

Scott Carlson
Metadata Coordinator

New DMC Role for Mario Norton

Mario Norton started as Digital Media Commons (DMC) supervisor in June 2017 after serving as DMC’s digital media support specialist since Sept. 2016. His new duties include supervising the DMC’s many student workers, managing supplies and equipment, teaching numerous classes (Adobe suite, video editing and CampusPress) and developing new classes, including several on 3-D modeling/animation software.

Norton is also the staff sponsor of a new student club, RU Animating. Mengjia Liu ’18 said, “I really appreciate all the effort he has put into helping our club get started and keeping it running. I’m sure we could not have found a better club sponsor.”

RU Animating was a natural fit for Norton, as he has always been an artist — from his earliest memories of his mother encouraging his drawing, to classes at the Glassell School of Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and even to graphic design and 3-D modeling work in the oil and gas industry. Jane Zhao, director of the DMC, explains, “Mario is our in-house expert for Illustrator, InDesign, Photoshop and the 3-D modeling software Blender.”

Amanda Thomas
User Experience Librarian

A Familiar Face

Mira Greene returned to Fondren Library this past fall. After working as assistant head of cataloging and metadata services here under Jiu Kuo 2007–2009, she left to pursue opportunities elsewhere. But a chance to be head of her old department lured her back to Houston.

“I definitely had a bit of déjà vu walking into the department,” she said. “The physical aspects of the department have not changed. However, it has been wonderful getting reacquainted with colleagues and friends still here as well as getting to meet new library staff.”

When asked about what the biggest challenges might be for the department over the coming years, Greene said: “As the use of ebooks and other electronic resources continues to grow, our challenge is providing description and access to all of the resources (print and electronic) Fondren Library acquires. The medium might change, but the need to manage material stays the same.”

Melinda Reagor Flannery, assistant university librarian for technical services, noted, “Mira’s experience between her two Rice positions has only enriched her understanding of the area of cataloging and metadata as well as technical services as a whole.”

Amanda Thomas
User Experience/Public Services Librarian
The Woodson Research Center recently acquired the extensive and fascinating archive of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH).


Archivists are currently processing the 300-plus box collection, digitizing over 700 audio-visual recordings and preparing the collection for researchers. “We are delighted at the Woodson Research Center to provide public access to the archives of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston,” said Amanda Focke, assistant head of special collections at Fondren. “The Woodson Research Center at Rice and CAMH have enjoyed strong connections over the years, and the CAMH archives will serve researchers well in the company of other Houston fine and performing arts collections at Rice. Such collections include the Rice Gallery records, Houston Arts and Media Oral Histories, Ann Holmes Fine Arts Archive, Marion Kessel Performing Arts collection, Grace Spaulding John papers and the William Camfield papers.”

The collection will continue to grow as additional materials from CAMH will be added annually. Research access will be announced once the collection is fully processed later in 2018.

Rebecca Russell
Archivist Librarian
Welcome to the Stravinsky Collection

Fondren Library recently acquired an important archive of annotated proofs, autograph and copyist manuscripts, and associated material relating to over 48 works by the revolutionary Russian-born composer Igor Stravinsky. Among the works represented are some of his most famous, the ballets “The Firebird,” “Petruchka” and “The Rite of Spring.” The archive is from the collection of Soulima Stravinsky, the composer’s son, and has been unavailable for scholarly research until now. It will be housed in Fondren’s Woodson Research Center.

Igor Stravinsky (1882–1971) first achieved international fame with three ballets premiered in Paris by Serge Diaghilev’s Ballet Russes between 1910 and 1913. He remains one of the most widely performed and influential composers of the 20th century. His period of productivity lasted well over 60 years and his compositions are notable for their stylistic diversity. To study Stravinsky is to study almost every important musical development in the century, from the neonationalism of his early ballets to the neoclassic style of his middle period and the serialism of his later years.

The majority of the proofs in the collection contain significant corrections, alterations and annotations in Stravinsky’s hand, including extensive autograph musical manuscript additions and textual notes. Some proofs are present in successive iterations, all evidencing important evolutionary stages in Stravinsky’s compositional process. The meticulous nature of Stravinsky’s corrections demonstrates his care to ensure that the final published edition faithfully represented his intentions.

Mary Brower
Music Librarian
Rice Authors

Friends of Fondren Library (FoFL) celebrates Rice authors, editors, composers and artists at an annual reception to honor them for their accomplishments. Peter (Carl) Caldwell, the Samuel G. McCann Professor and Friends of Fondren Library board member, hosted this year’s program and reception in the Ley Student Center’s Farnsworth Pavilion Jan. 31, 2018.

The evening’s program featured a lively panel discussion titled, “Varieties of Change: Environmental Destruction, Political Transformation, Cultural Creation.” Three members of the Rice faculty who published books in 2017 constituted the panel.

• Jim Blackburn, professor in the practice in environmental law and author of “A Texan Plan for the Texas Coast”

• Tony Brandt, professor of composition and theory and co-author of “The Runaway Species: How Human Creativity Remakes the World”

• Lyn Ragsdale, the Radoslav A. Tsanoff Professor of Public Affairs and professor of political science and co-author of “The American Nonvoter”

Please contact Friends of Fondren with names of authors for next year’s event.

Books That Shaped My World

Rice University President David W. Leebron was the featured speaker at the fall Books That Shaped My World lecture. This lecture was presented on Feb. 20, 2018 by Friends of Fondren Library and co-chaired by Jeff Ross ’75 and Amy and Robert Taylor ’74.

Leebron spoke to a capacity crowd in the library’s Kyle Morrow Room. From a story of using “The Cat in the Hat Comes Back” in a law-school lecture to his poignant reflection on “Night” by Elie Wiesel, Leebron shared many examples of books that shaped his perspectives and outlook.

Please join us for future lectures; they will be featured on our website at www.library.rice.edu/friends.

President Leebron’s Book List

Childhood:
The Cat in the Hat Comes Back – Dr. Seuss

Dictionary; Thesaurus; Atlas; Encyclopedia

The Way Things Work – An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Technology

Things Fall Apart – Chinua Achebe

Abuse and Oppression:
Oliver Twist – Charles Dickens

Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl Written by Herself – Harriet Ann Jacobs

Night – Elie Wiesel

Reading in a Foreign Language:
The Metamorphosis – Franz Kafka

Science:
The Copernican Revolution – Thomas S. Kuhn

The Life of Galileo – Bertolt Brecht

What to Read in Paris:
Down and Out in Paris and London – George Orwell

Le Miserables – Victor Hugo

Eiffel’s Tower – Jill Jonnes

Problems of the Mind:
Into the Wild – Jon Krakauer

An Unquiet Mind – Kay Redfield Jamison

Human Rights:
The Age of Rights – Louis Henkin

Political Theory and International Relations – Charles R. Beitz

Black Panther – the recent movie

Fighting for Justice:
Michael Kohlhaas – Heinrich Von Kleist

Ragtime – E.L. Doctorow

Family Matters:
In the Middle of All This – Fred G. Leebron

Everyone’s World:
Silent Spring – Rachel Carson

The Sixth Extinction – Elizabeth Kolbert

Crime, Guilt, Punishment & the Obligatory Russian Novel:
Crime and Punishment – Fyodor Dostoevsky

An American Tragedy – Theodore Dreiser

Books That Shaped Me (Literally):
Michelin Guide to France

Zagat Survey New York City Restaurants

Rice University Books:
Edgar Odell Lovett and the Creation of Rice University – Edgar Odell Lovett

University Builder – John B. Boles
Meet the Author

Friends of Fondren Library is pleased to team up with the Association of Rice Alumni to showcase a Rice author each semester. In spring 2018, our featured author was Diana Strassmann, founding editor of the journal Feminist Economics. This event was co-chaired for the Friends by Mindy Vanderford ’84 and Kristin Necessary Brookhart ’01.

Strassmann’s talk covered not only the important work of the journal but also discussed the challenges she and other women academics faced in their careers, which inspired her to found the journal to provide a forum for research and discussion on feminist approaches to economic questions. Given the pervasive current discussions in our society about women’s continued experiences of barriers to advancement and promotion in nearly every field of endeavor, the event was quite timely.

Brookhart reflected, “The particular subjects highlighted in her talk were fascinating, and I found myself hungry to find copies of these articles and learn more. I particularly enjoyed the idea of reframing economic questions around the idea of improved well-being rather than quantifying everything in monetary terms. This was so refreshing and a much more meaningful way of addressing the outcomes found by the researchers.”

2018 Gala Success

The Friends of Fondren Library Gala is an annual event that brings together friends and supporters to celebrate the library and benefit its future. Catherine and Brian James ’78 chaired this beautiful event at the River Oaks Country Club March 23, 2018. Guests enjoyed the live and silent auctions and a delicious dinner.

During its 38th gala, Friends of Fondren Library honored Molly and Jim Crownover ’65 for their ongoing dedication to Rice University. Jim studied chemical engineering at Rice and went on to a successful 30-year career at McKinsey and Company, Inc. Rice launched its Centennial Campaign during his second term as chairman of the Rice Board of Trustees and the student population increased by 37 percent and $800 million was invested in campus improvement during his tenure. In addition to her involvement in many community organizations, Molly has been long involved with the Shepherd Society and currently serves as its president. Both Molly and Jim are tireless advocates for Rice University.

This gala also recognized the 50th anniversary of the Woodson Research Center. This extraordinary center collects, organizes and preserves Rice University archives, rare books and manuscripts to support the research goals of the university. This year’s “Paddles Up” portion of the auction supported digitizing recordings of Shepherd School of Music performances, preserving them for future study and research.

We extend our thanks to everyone who supported the annual gala, and we invite you to join us for our 39th annual gala next spring.

Mary Lowery
Executive Director
Friends of Fondren Library
The Kelley Center for Government Information, Data and Geospatial Services welcomed a special visitor recently, former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker III. He was viewing microfilm of his personal papers, which are part of a collection housed in the Woodson Research Center.

L to R Katherine Hart Weimer, Ann Bazile, James Baker III, Siu Min Yu