

2026 Friends of Fondren Library Gala

Honoring
Shelley and Art Gottschalk



RICE
UNIVERSITY



Live Auction

San Miguel de Allende at Casa Tecolote

Pack your bags for this quaint, historical village just a short two-hour flight from Houston. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, San Miguel is near the town of Dolores Hidalgo where Mexico first initiated the fight for its independence from Spain and where the patriots who spearheaded the revolution, including Miguel de Allende, lost their lives, immortalizing San Miguel de Allende. Dating back to 1542, the town is in the very heart of Mexico and sits at 6,000 feet above sea level in the Sierra Madre mountain range. In the last two decades, it has successfully beckoned chefs from all over the world, becoming a food mecca where visitors can experience just about every type of cuisine.

Your home away from home is Casa Tecolote (Owl House), a 150-year-old traditional colonial Mexican home located in the Centro Histórico district of San Miguel, which is the original old town. The central Jardin (garden) is a mere three blocks from the house and the Mercado de Artesanías is a short, picturesque two-block walk.

Upon entering Casa Tecolote, you are ushered into a capilla (little chapel), complete with a hand painted, vaulted ceiling. From there, you step into the central courtyard, where all rooms open on to the courtyard featuring an outdoor fireplace and built-in gas grill. There is a beautiful, well-equipped kitchen that is open to both the living and the dining rooms and is complemented by a small separate catering kitchen.

The first-floor primary suite has a king bed. On the second level, there are two bedrooms both with en-suite bathrooms. One bedroom features a king-size bed. The second upstairs bedroom has two twin



beds. Both rooms open onto a lanai with chaise lounges — a perfect place to while away an afternoon with a good book. There is also a study on this level to complete all the creature comforts and needs of home.



A roof top terrace features a hot tub that has a stunning vista up the mountain side to the east and a beautiful view of four of the seven churches in San Miguel to the west.

Dates for your seven-day stay to be mutually agreed upon April to June or late August through mid-October 2026. Please note that April and May tend to be the warmest months in San Miguel.

Not included: Airfare, ground transportation, car rental, activities, meals, beverages and tips

Please note: Smoking or vaping of any kind and pets are strictly prohibited in the home, on the rooftop or on the grounds.

Donated by Amy and Robert Taylor '74

Live Auction

Casa Porvenir

Relax as you enjoy the beautiful, historic, city of San Miguel de Allende and its wonderful people. Sip coffee on the rooftop of the centrally located Casa Porvenir as you take in the sunrise, watch the hummingbirds and listen to the church bells. Enjoy one of the staff's wonderful breakfasts, lunches or dinners or sip on an agua fresca made with fresh fruits, cereals, flowers or seeds. Stroll down the original Chichimeca walking path, Cañadita de Los Aguacates or Calle Aldama and join in festivals, learn about local history and eat at first-class restaurants. Casa Porvenir is a short walk to Parque Juarez, a public plaza, and is also close to El Jardin, the central garden. Outside of the city, you can enjoy the countryside with vineyards



and hot springs and return home to enjoy the sunset and wake to another satisfying day in this enchanting town.

Casa Porvenir, surrounded by trees and relatively quiet, is a light-filled, 2,000-square-foot patio home with staffing two or three days a week. Your only responsibility will be to pay the staff, as they are part of the magic. Flowers and plants bloom in big pots outside and inside and a soft breeze prevails, ventilating the house with a profusion of sweet, fresh aromas. Color abounds in the decorations and furnishings of this split-level house suitable for two couples.

From the back entrance, the downstairs bedroom is only four steps to all main rooms. The master bedroom, on the second level, is large and quiet. Both bedrooms have en-suite bathrooms. The house, decorated with art and textiles collected from Mexico and Central and South America, is named after the owner's maternal grandfather's estate in Santa Marta, Colombia. The realtors recently designated the neighborhood the Beverly Hills of San Miguel.

Dates for your seven- to 10-day stay to be mutually agreed upon April or December 2026. Maximum number of guests is four.

Not included: Airfare, ground transportation, car rental, activities, meals, beverages, tips and staffing — staffing costs 2,000 pesos per week or 3,000 pesos for a 10-day stay. (2,000 pesos are approximately \$110 as of December 2025.)

Donated by Therese Tilley

Live Auction

Villa in Spain

Discover Frigiliana, the most beautiful village in Spain, while spending seven days in a restored villa just five miles north of the Mediterranean in Andalusia. There are two bedrooms, each with a queen-size bed, and two shower baths. The living room, dining room, kitchen and terrace have breathtaking views of the Sierras de Tejeda and Almijara mountain ranges and Alhama Natural Park and openings to ancient caves. Dates for your one-week visit to be mutually agreed upon.

Not included: Airfare, ground transportation, car rental, activities, meals, beverages and tips

Donated by Barbara Byrd



Chef-Selected Dinner for 8

Turner's Cut, a Berg Hospitality Group original concept and Houston's most opulent steakhouse located in Autry Park, offers white-glove service, daily live music and exquisite fare in a sophisticated steakhouse reminiscent of the Gilded Age. The restaurant received the 2025 rd+d award for full-service restaurant design, impressing the judges who like that "it's a very curated space" with "bespoke details."

This chef-selected pre-fixe five-course menu for eight guests with wine pairing will feature American Wagyu beef and Broken Arrow Ranch quail. In DiningOut HTX, Sarah Neilsen says, "A meal at Turner's Cut is truly an unforgettable one."

Date to be mutually agreed upon, excluding December, holidays and special events.

Donated by Berg Hospitality Group

Live Auction

City Kitchen In-Home Dinner for 8

Imagine an elegant dinner for eight in your home, prepared by the incomparable City Kitchen Catering. Plan your three-course menu with their events team and sit back to watch and enjoy culinary artistry. You will experience an unparalleled dining experience, featuring the best seasonal ingredients and creative new offerings that showcase exceptional flavors and contemporary presentations.

Date to be mutually agreed upon within one year of purchase date, excluding holidays and the month of December. This item is for food and staff only. Buyer provides rentals and beverages.

Donated by City Kitchen



Clinic With Rice Women's Golf

Enjoy an exclusive golf clinic for up to eight participants hosted by the Rice University Women's Golf Team. This two-hour experience with our Owls will include instruction in putting, short game, and range work from our coaching staff and student-athletes. Complimentary beverages and small bites will be provided. Each guest will also receive a gift bag filled with Rice Golf swag to commemorate the day.

Date to be mutually agreed upon.

Donated by Rice Athletics

Special Occasions



The Rice University Gateway Project: Bridging Campus and Community

Tommy McClelland

Vice President and Director of Athletics

The Rice University Gateway Project will transform the western edge of campus by strengthening connections among Rice Athletics, the academic core and the surrounding community. Anchored by the renovation of historic Rice Stadium, the project will elevate the game-day experience for Rice Football fans, while enhancing facilities and access for a wide range of athletic events and campus programming. Improved pedestrian connectivity, expanded green space and mixed-use development will link campus more seamlessly with Rice Village, positioning athletics as a welcoming front door to the university and a catalyst for engagement, pride, and shared experience across campus and Houston.

Hosted by Toni and Fabian Gomez '93 at Bloom & Bee at the Post Oak Hotel

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Number of guests: 14 · Price per ticket: \$300



Venezuela and the Failure of Realpolitik: Why Managed Intervention Produces Instability, Violence and Investment Risk

Luis Duno Gottberg

Lee Hage Jamail Professor of Latin American Studies

This talk argues that the Realpolitik framework currently guiding international engagement with Venezuela is not producing stability, but postponing conflict. While managed intervention and conditional sovereignty may appear pragmatic — allowing oil flows, institutional continuity and short-term order — they erode legitimacy, fracture the social fabric, and generate long-term political and investment risk. Drawing on Venezuela's historical role as a testing ground for intervention without occupation, the presentation shows why control cannot substitute for consent, and why repression without legitimacy ultimately undermines both diplomacy and capital. Venezuela, Luis Duno Gottberg argues, is not a successful model of post-democratic governance, but a laboratory of deferred instability — one that reveals why institutional rebuilding and democratic legitimacy remain the only viable foundations for durable order.

Hosted by Julie Gianelloni Connor '73 at her home

Date: Friday, April 24, 2026

Number of guests: 9 · Price per ticket: \$300

Special Occasions



A Seat at Houston's Table: Food, Storytelling and Research at Rice

Katharine Shilcutt

Director of Communications for the Office of Research

Houston is often called the most fascinating food city in America. As a former professional food critic, Katharine Shilcutt had a front-row seat to the chefs, neighborhoods and cultural traditions that shape the city's table. In this talk, she will reflect on what she learned while being "paid to eat" and how those lessons about storytelling, community and curiosity now inform her work as director of communications for Rice's Office of Research. From restaurant kitchens to research labs, Shilcutt will explore how we translate complex ideas for broader audiences and why the stories we tell matter. City Kitchen is catering this cuisine-centric dinner.

Hosted by Julie '72 and David Itz '72 at their home

Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2026

Number of guests: 14 • Price per ticket: \$300



We All Have a Story to Tell: An Evening of Stories From the Rice Archive

Portia Hopkins

University Historian

Portia Hopkins will lead a discussion and engaging conversation by showcasing a series of vignettes that highlight Rice graduates, prominent faculty and significant moments in Rice's history. Conversely, Hopkins looks forward to hearing stories from the alumni attending the event. She hopes to demonstrate how our archive and our collective memories are what keeps the Rice culture vibrant and unique.

Hosted by Amy Sutton '89 and Gary Chiles '86 at Sixty Vines

Date: Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2026

Number of guests: 16 • Price per ticket: \$300

Special Occasions



The Tip of the Iceberg: What You Really See From an Orchestra Conductor

Miguel Harth-Bedoya

Distinguished Resident Director of Orchestras and Professor of Conducting

You probably can imagine a person holding a baton, waving it in front of nearly 100 musicians, and looking like he or she is immersed in the music. Miguel Harth-Bedoya will discuss how Rice's Shepherd School of Music is transforming the training of conductors with a new and unique program in the U.S.

Hosted by Paula and Reginald DesRoches at the Wiess President's House

Date: Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2026

Number of guests: 26 · Price per ticket: \$300



Designing for Impact: Learning to Solve Problems Like the Rest of the World

Matthew Wettergreen

Teaching Professor in the Department of Bioengineering, Associate Teaching Professor at the Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen and Director of the Global Medical Innovation Program

What does it take to move an idea from a classroom prototype to a device that improves lives around the world? Matthew Wettergreen leads students in the Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen and Rice's Global Medical Innovation Program, where engineering meets real-world health challenges. He will share stories of student teams working alongside clinicians and global partners to design affordable, practical technologies for underserved communities. This talk will explore how hands-on design education shapes the next generation of engineers and how innovation, when rooted in empathy and collaboration, can create lasting impact.

Hosted by Sofia Adrogué '88 and Caroline Baker Hurley at the Bayou Club

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2026

Number of guests: 12 · Price per ticket: \$300

Special Occasions



Beyond the Hedges and Beyond Your Imagination: The Evolution of the Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies

Rob Bruce

Dean of the Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies and Adjunct Professor of Humanities

In his 1912 inaugural address, Rice University's first president, Edgar Odell Lovett, articulated a vision that still resonates today: "Education does not begin with the university, nor does it end in the university." Fifty-five years later, Rice advanced that ideal with the creation of the Office of Continuing Studies. Another half-century on, the Susanne M. Glasscock School of Continuing Studies stands as a national leader in educational access and innovation, living out its mission to go "beyond the hedges" and open a private university to the public. From transformative early childhood literacy initiatives and prestigious nonprofit leadership programs to award-winning photography courses, accessible graduate degrees and pioneering digital learning with retirement communities nationwide, the mission continues to evolve. Join Robert Bruce as he discusses the Glasscock School's quest to serve Houston and beyond.

Hosted by Virginia Clark '14 and Martiel Luther '78 at The Annie Café and Bar

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2026

Number of guests: 12 • Price per ticket: \$300



Preserving Memory, Practicing Justice

Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman

Associate Professor and Associate Department Chair of Sociology

What happens when a society begins to forget or refuses to remember its own history? Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman's Journey Towards Justice course immerses students in the landscapes of the Civil Rights Movement, connecting the history of slavery and Jim Crow to contemporary struggles around mass incarceration and racial inequality. In this conversation, she will reflect on why preserving historical sites and stories is not simply about the past, but about shaping the possibilities of the next generation. At a time when educational access to these histories is increasingly contested, this talk underscores the urgency of experiential learning, collective memory and the role of universities, like Rice, in cultivating possibility.

Hosted by Shelley and Art Gottschalk at Zanti Cucina Italiana River Oaks

Date: Thursday, Oct. 22, 2026

Number of guests: 12 • Price per ticket: \$300

Special Occasions



Sweet Science: How Cotton Candy Sparked a Materials Revolution

Karen Lozano

Trustee Professor, Materials Science and NanoEngineering Chair,
Department of Materials Science and NanoEngineering

What do cotton candy and advanced technology have in common? In this inspiring talk, Karen Lozano shares the unexpected “eureka” moment that led to a breakthrough in nanofiber manufacturing. From that simple spark emerged a scalable technology now advancing innovations in health care, energy storage, filtration and advanced manufacturing. Discover how small fibers are opening new frontiers in science, technology and human impact.

Hosted by Catherine and Brian James '78 at their home

Date: Thursday, Oct. 29, 2026

Number of guests: 12 • Price per ticket: \$300



Finding Your Purpose: A Life in Full Voice

Ana María Martínez

Professor of Voice

Opera singer and Professor of Voice Ana María Martínez reflects on the moment she recognized her true purpose and chose to fully commit to it. She shares how following that calling shaped her artistic journey and allowed her to reach her greatest potential. By telling her story, Martínez hopes to inspire others to listen inward, embrace their own purpose and lead the life they are meant to live.

Hosted by Liz '76 and Steve Crowell at their home

Date: Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026

Number of guests: 12 • Price per ticket: \$300

Special Occasions



Charting our Path: Fostering Belonging and Engagement at Rice Through Courageous Leadership

Constance "Connie" Porter

Senior Associate Dean for Belonging and Engagement and Associate Clinical Professor of Marketing at Rice Business

Navigating a volatile political, cultural and legal landscape, many higher education leaders have struggled to maintain a commitment to belonging and engagement for their campus and surrounding communities. Despite significant challenges, courageous leaders at Rice have strengthened our institutional commitments to ensure that all community members feel connected and energized about our future. Join Connie Porter as she shares her journey toward courageous leadership and how charting a path toward belonging and engagement supports *Momentous*, the university's strategic plan.

Hosted by Tracy '00 and John Dennis III '93 at River Oaks Country Club, Green Room

Date: Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026

Number of guests: 16 • Price per ticket: \$300



Bringing Humanity Back to the Heart of Health Care

Kirsten Ostherr

Gladys Louise Fox Professor of English, Director of Medical Humanities Program and Director of Medical Humanities Research Institute

We are living through a period of rapid technological transformation in medicine, with AI poised to redefine everything from surgery to doctor-patient communication. But the most profound and fundamental problems facing health care cannot be solved by technology alone. Join Kirsten Ostherr, founding director of the Medical Humanities Research Institute, to learn how the humanities can offer new methods for addressing complex challenges at the intersection of health, illness and human experience. Ostherr will share how researchers in the medical humanities collaborate with clinicians to explore how language and culture shape our response to pain, how caregivers can improve outcomes for patients with delirium and dementia, and how emotion is an overlooked variable in biomedical engineering design.

Hosted by Barbara '73 and David Gibbs '70, '71 at their home

Date: Thursday, Nov. 12, 2026

Number of guests: 12 • Price per ticket: \$300

Paddles Up!

Proceeds from the 2026 Friends of Fondren Library Gala support the physical spaces, programs and collections that animate teaching, learning and creativity at Fondren Library.

This year's Paddles Up! project invites you to help bring music fully to life in the newly remodeled Brown Fine Arts Library. With your support, we will equip this new performance area with a Yamaha AvantGrand hybrid piano, an instrument that makes chamber music, vocal repertoire, teaching and hands-on engagement with Fondren's exceptional music collections possible in a shared academic space.

Recent performances in the library have underscored a critical need. Without a piano, much of the chamber and vocal repertoire simply cannot be presented. This instrument offers a rare combination of concert-quality sound and quiet flexibility. It can be used silently with headphones for study and instruction, then transformed into a full-performance piano for recitals, lectures and special events.

Your gift will help ensure that this new performance space reaches its full potential, supporting musicians, students, faculty and audiences for years to come.

Please use your bid stickers to indicate the amount of your donation on the Paddles Up! card at your table. All gift levels are welcome and deeply appreciated.



Auction Program and Guidelines

Your participation in our live auction, special occasion dinners and Paddles Up! all provide important support to Fondren Library. Thank you for your support.

Please use the stickers provided for your bids. By placing a sticker on a special occasion dinner display sign, you reserve one seat for that dinner at the price listed.

A very limited number of seats are available for each event. Paddles Up! cards are on your table. Use your bid stickers to indicate the amount of your donation to support user experience enhancements to Fondren Library. If you have questions, our on-site team is ready to assist you.

Payment in full by cash, check, Mastercard, Visa, American Express or Discover is required at the end of the evening. You will be issued a receipt via text message for your tax records.

All portable items must be removed at the conclusion of the evening. Arrangements must be made for the removal of any large items.

Neither the committee nor the Friends of Fondren Library assumes responsibility for the condition of the items. No guarantee, except that of the manufacturer, if applicable, is either expressed or implied. All items in this auction have been donated for the Friends of Fondren Library Gala and cannot be returned or exchanged.

The advertised minimum bid is the lowest price at which a bidder can purchase the item. If the minimum bid or reserve price of an item is not met, the Friends of Fondren Library is under no obligation to sell the item.

Please note that many of the items are for specific dates or have expiration dates. These dates are firm.