

## Woodson Research Center Trains Students for Public Humanities Initiative

During the 2016 spring semester, the Woodson Research Center, in partnership with the Humanities Research Center, supervised two undergraduate students in archival research in the areas of medical humanities and cultural heritage. As part of the Public Humanities Initiative, students learned to apply their humanistic training and critical thinking as they learned new practical skills. The students learned about the nature of archives and conducted deep research and analysis of primary sources.

Miriam Shayeb, a sophomore English and Hispanic studies major, was selected to work with the “Kezia Payne DePelchin Yellow Fever Epidemic Letters, 1878–1879.” This collection consists primarily of a bound volume of 34 letters, the majority of which were written by Kezia Payne DePelchin (1828–1893) of Houston, to her sister, describing her experiences

as a nurse during the yellow fever epidemic of 1878 in Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama. The letters were digitized and transcribed and are now available in the Rice Digital Scholarship Archives. Shayeb analyzed the letters to gain insight into the treatment of illness in the postbellum South and the “interactions between doctors and nurses during an era in which nursing was not completely professionalized.” She also focused on the intersection of race, illness and nursing. She published two articles about the project on Rice University’s OpenStax online platform.

Edna Otuomagie is a senior visual and dramatic arts major and was selected to work on the “Between Decisions: From Co-Education to Integration (1957–1970)” online exhibit. Using Fondren’s Omeka web-based exhibit platform, the exhibit explores how Rice University historically handled gender/sex and race relations through discussion of its major decisions from 1957 to 1970 — including the creation of the residential college system and gender and race desegregation. Otuomagie researched the topic using Woodson Research Center material and also interviewed

members of the Rice community. She created a fascinating exhibit on a topic of great interest that had not been covered in such a succinct and compelling way. Her exhibit is available online: <http://exhibits.library.rice.edu/exhibits/show/between-decisions>.

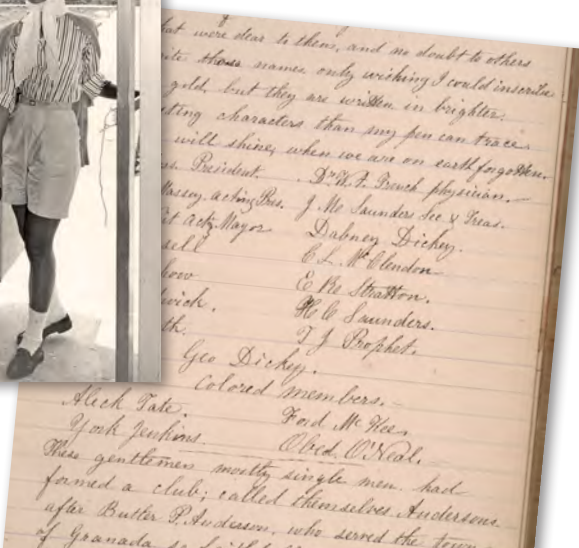
Otuomagie was honored for her research with the Humanities Research Center Prize and also received the School of Humanities first prize at the Rice Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Both students created thoughtful archival research projects and delivered them to a broader audience in accessible and permanent online formats.

*Rebecca Russell*  
Archivist Librarian



Female Rice students moving into the new Jones College (1957)



### CHECK IT OUT!

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**RICE**

**Fondren Library**

# Library Ambassadors Bring Fondren to Each College



Current Fondren ambassadors

The User Experience (UX) Office, with support from the Fondren Library executive committee, created the library ambassador program in spring 2016. Sara Lowman, Fondren's vice provost and university librarian, said, "I'm pleased that the new library student ambassador program has been launched. The library is very interested in hearing what services and collections the student user community values; this group will serve as an important conduit for information between the students and the library staff."

#### Current ambassadors:

- Meghana Gaur '19, (Lovett, mathematical economic analysis)
- Rakesh Vijayakumar '19 (Brown, chemical engineering)
- Pauline Chen '17 (Baker, architecture)
- Kseniya Anishchenko '19 (Sid Rich, cognitive Sciences)
- Reagan Hahn '19 (Will Rice, kinesiology)
- Anirudh Kunaparaju '19 (Jones, computer science and economics)
- Ravali Kruthiventi (Graduate Student Association, computer science; not pictured above)

Representatives from the remaining colleges are still being recruited. Students can sign up at <http://bit.ly/2dXk7fr>. The feedback owlcard, <http://libguides.rice.edu/owlcards>, has a small blurb about the paid program and is available at library service points.

Fondren staff members Norie Guthrie, Amanda Thomas and I have a lunch meeting three times a semester with

the students and share a weekly "call out" email that includes items to be shared with fellow college residents at lunch. Past emails can be viewed online at <http://ow.ly/Ymor304uRgc>.

#### The ambassadors' duties include:

- Promoting library events, classes and programs
- Participating on Fondren Library social media
- Attending library events
- Serving as an advisory group to the UX Office and to the library's Committee on Marketing and Customer Service (CMACS).

Conversations this semester have included soliciting input on furniture for the new student conference room (Room 156) as well as check out policies, library hours, safety and library signage, and upcoming events.

The monthly lunch meetings also include a brief tour of a library area. At the August meeting, Kathy Weimer, head of the Kelley Center for Government Information, Data and Geospatial Services, gave a brief tour of the Kelley Center and talked about the GIS/Data Center. Future meetings will include tours of other departments and help the students deepen their understanding of the role of an academic library in the university. They will share feedback on their experience of the library and gather feedback from their colleges that will help improve and develop library services.

"I mainly joined the library ambassador program because of my initial engagement with library staff for my new student representative project," Meghana Gaur, a current ambassador said. "That project involved working with the Student Association to request that coffee cups be allowed in Fondren. 'I realized how much the library staff cared about the concerns of students and how much every student's experience with Fondren could be improved, simply with an enhanced and constant flow of insight/feedback between students and library administration. Thus, I joined the program to help pilot this feedback system and serve as a conduit for student recommendations and concerns. I love the library, as it offers a pure and productive study environment and serves a dynamic purpose through the diverse offering of study spaces.'"

*Debra Kolah  
Head, User Experience Office*





## Social Media Makeover

Over the past year, Fondren Library has greatly expanded its social media presence and contributors. There now is a social media team that splits up posting responsibilities and meets regularly to review assignments and impact. The team writes almost daily event and news updates for our Twitter, Facebook and Instagram accounts. We also have refreshed our YouTube channel with new content, better organization and updated branding. Readers can follow us on Twitter and Instagram at @fondrenlibrary, as well as easily find us on Facebook and YouTube.

*Norie Guthrie*  
Archivist Librarian



# The DMC Studios: Helping Bring Projects to Life

In the southeast corner of the Digital Media Commons (DMC) space in the basement of Fondren Library, there are two new state-of-the-art studios: the DMC audio studio and the DMC video/photography studio. Many projects have used these spaces since the studios were first made available in January 2015.



## The Audio Studio

The audio studio has primarily been used for vocal recordings. Additionally, Rice Gallery staff members have used the studio to record audio tours for their installations. Undergraduate Lisa Huang '16 used it to record the voice-over narration for a video abstract of a paper published in the journal *Cell*.

One of the space's larger projects involved the Rice Philharmonics, an a cappella group that previously paid an off-campus studio to record their CDs. But when the DMC audio studio opened, they reserved it over several weekends for their newest recording. "While the engineer we hired uses his own microphones and software,

we love the central location of the DMC for our students," said group member Juan Cruz '16. "The soundproof walls, convenient outlets and the ease of rearranging the room for our purposes are very nice, as well as the fact that we can reserve the studio and know that no one will disturb us."

More recently, anthropology professors Dominic Boyer and Cymene Howe have been using the studio to record their podcast series "Cultures of Energy," which is available on iTunes, for the Center for Energy and Environmental Research in the Human Sciences.



## The Video/Photography Studio

People have primarily used the video/photography studio for taking photos, recording interviews and taping lectures. For instance, Reto Geiser, the Wortham Assistant Professor of Architecture, and Dawn Finley, associate professor of architecture, have brought their classes to the studio to photograph architectural models, and Ann Saterbak, professor in the practice of bioengineering education, has recorded her online lectures in the studio.

In December 2015, Rice University's Critical Thinking in Sexuality Task Force conducted a series of studio interviews across campus. The participants were asked to share personal thoughts or stories about sexual assault prevention. Angela Masciale '16, the student leader in this

video project, consulted with DMC staff members, including Nadalia Liu, on how to record the interviews with bright lights and a black background to focus on the subjects' faces and words. Liu provided additional detailed guidance on filming, light setup, and use of the video camera and microphone.

If you have been considering an audio/video project, feel free to stop by the DMC for a consultation on how to use the studios to best meet your project's need. The DMC provides the facilities and assistance to help bring your digital media projects to life.

Learn More:

The audio studio: <http://library.rice.edu/equipment/dmc-audio-studio-b42d>

The video/photography studio: <http://library.rice.edu/equipment/dmc-video-and-photography-studio-b42e>

DMC gallery of projects: <https://wiki.rice.edu/confluence/display/DMCGUIDES/DMC+Gallery>

Jane Zhao  
Director, Digital Media Commons



# Digital Frontiers Conference Hosted at Rice

Librarians, archivists and digital humanists from around the country converged at Rice's BioScience Research Collaborative to attend the fifth annual Digital Frontiers conference Sept. 22–23.

Founded in 2012 by the University of North Texas Libraries, the conference is billed as “a project to explore creativity and collaboration across disciplinary boundaries in the arena of public humanities and cultural memory,” and is especially concerned with digital humanities (DH), the area where computing and technology intersect with traditional disciplines of the humanities.

The conference encourages an interdisciplinary experience by scheduling presentations from disparate fields of research and study without separate conference tracks. The resulting program included presentations on the preservation of native Peruvian pottery techniques, user-generated vocabularies in describing live concerts and a tutorial in creating coloring books from digital objects found in institutional repositories.

Roopika Risam, assistant professor of English and secondary English education at Salem State University, opened the conference with a keynote presentation about social justice in the digital humanities, arguing that the DH field should take responsibility in preventing “the forces of colonialism, sexism and racism” from co-opting digital preservation in the pursuit of exclusionary forms of world-making. “Our cultural memory is in danger of becoming a product, a corporate property,” said Risam. “We are to blame if we are not intervening ... We're up against the EBSCO and the ProQuests that are reshaping our cultural memory.”

The closing keynote was given by Patrick Meier, an internationally recognized consultant on humanitarian technology and author of the book “Digital Humanitarians.” Meier recounted the hours after the devastating 2010 Haiti earthquake, when he led a worldwide group of volunteers in mapping emergencies with specific locations in Haiti based on Twitter posts. Meier also described the efforts of his organization, WeRobotics, in bringing diving, swimming and flying robots to remote areas of Nepal to deliver medicine and provide early warnings of dangerous flash floods.



Fondren Library was one of the nine academic and public libraries and research institutes responsible for organizing the conference, as well as hosting duties and scholarly participation by its staff. Dara Flinn, archivist and special collections librarian at Fondren's Woodson Research Center, presented on the library's current digitization program to preserve performances by the Shepherd School of Music stored on cassette. Ying Jin, application programmer in Fondren's Digital Scholarship Services, presented on her contributions to a Rice collaboration that produced a six foot tall, interactive reproduction of a woodcut illustration from Andreas Vesalius' groundbreaking 1543 anatomy treatise, “De Humani Corporis Fabrica.” Conference attendees were invited to touch Vesalius' annotated anatomical drawing, producing background and medical information on a nearby computer monitor.



Rice faculty were also on hand to report on work that mixed humanities work with computers and technology. Don H. Johnson, the J.S. Abercrombie Professor Emeritus of Electrical and Computer Engineering, discussed his work in analyzing the weave patterns and thread densities of artwork through X-rays, while Anne Chao, project manager at Rice's Chao Center for Asian Studies, demonstrated how the shifting concepts and attitudes of patriotism in the written works of Chen Duxiu, co-founder and first general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, could be tracked and analyzed using text-mining techniques.

*Scott Carlson  
Metadata Coordinator*

## Guerrilla User Experience (UX) Testing

People are generally inspired to ask what we are up to, because we are stationed across from the access services desk and because of our display of Fondren-branded items and delicious snacks. If visitors have five minutes to spare, we ask them to sit with us for some casual, short usability testing in exchange for these freebies and treats.

This form of rapid usability testing, which many UX professionals call guerrilla testing, has been a regular practice in the Fondren UX Office since 2012. Each semester, we assess and try new approaches. Last year, we began collecting data with Google forms; this change ensures that we have a spreadsheet with accurate timestamps, consistently collect demographic information and have a script for the testing. This year, we are trying to implement a more rapid reporting

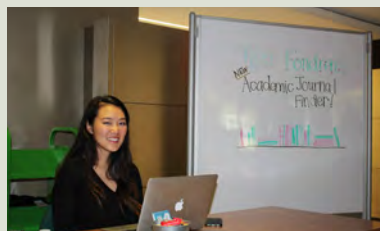
schedule using templates.

When we conduct a guerrilla test, we are usually looking at only one thing on the website, to keep the test short. During the test, we may also capture data on a service, space or other issue the library needs to address or improve.

One of the strongest elements of our testing

practice this year is our student worker, Pauline Chen '16. We not only gain her student perspective while translating research questions into guerrilla tests, but also see student participants open up and relate to their peer on a deeper level. After we have results, her backgrounds in graphic design and architecture bring our recommendations to the next level. Chen often contributes to the analysis and recommendations that are forwarded to stakeholders and have a measurable impact on library experiences.

*Amanda Thomas  
User Experience/Public Services Librarian*



## Student Input Powers Library Renovations

Fondren room 156, previously a computer lab and then a temporary location for the DVD collection, has now been transformed into a new student conference room, with seating for 16. The room, near access services, features smart plug and play technology, including a 65-inch LCD that accepts either VGA or HDMI input and automatically switches between sources. A large, wooden conference table with 16 chairs and built-in power anchors the space, making it perfect for club and student group meetings. Four comfortable denim lounge chairs line the perimeter of the room. Coffee and boxed meals will be allowed. The room reservation for Room 156 is limited to groups of four students or more and at least four students must be present to receive the key.

Future enhancements to the room will include a student art presentation space and a display case for Rice memorabilia.

Two smaller rooms (rooms 113 and 114) are adjacent to the recently remodeled South Reading Room. One had been a newspaper storage room, the other a copier room. Both have been converted into quiet spaces.

Before proceeding with renovations, Fondren gathered input to determine how students would like to use the rooms. Thirty-three student feedback forms were collected in person, and 81 online survey responses were received and analyzed. A focus group also was held.

The rooms can be booked through the online student room reservation system at <https://rooms.library.rice.edu/>.

*Debra Kolah  
Head, User Experience*



## Freshmen Discover Fondren

Fondren 101, offered this fall by members of the library's instruction committee, is a library orientation class directed at first-year students. About 75 students participated in nine sessions of the class, which consists of two main elements: a 20-minute tour and 30-minute classroom session.

The tour was developed and tested with student input by the User Experience (UX) Office and led by Amanda Thomas. After an introduction to library collections and services, students visited the NASA exhibit, Woodson Research Center, access services and other first-floor destinations; then toured a study room and the Brown Fine Arts Library on the third floor; then headed to the basement to learn about the Kelley Center for Government Information, Data and Geospatial Services, the Digital Media Commons, the GIS/Data Center and the UX Lab. In addition to helping students learn the library's layout, the tour gave them the opportunity to ask questions about library services, many of which they were encountering for the first time.

During the ensuing classroom session, students started to navigate library resources by understanding three key concepts:

1. When you search the library, you're searching collections.
2. When you search collections, you're searching descriptions of items.
3. Librarians are here to help.



Concept No. 1 introduced students to the various formats and often subject-specific nature of library holdings. Concept No. 2 included database search skills. Students were able to demonstrate their understanding of both concepts through brief in-class assessment exercises which can be found at <http://libguides.rice.edu/fondren101>.

For Concept No. 3, students learned about librarians' roles and the location of library help pages. Finally, students were encouraged to take the next steps to learn more about the library; this activity included takeaway cards with instructions for following up on specific library services.

The success of Fondren 101 represents a concerted effort by Fondren staff to market the class during O-Week and the first weeks of school. First, members of the committee on marketing and customer service contributed marketing plans and materials. Then hundreds of bookmarks were handed out during the O-Week Academic Fair and campus tour. Collaborations with the Program in Writing and Communication, Student Support Initiatives and Sid Rich O-Week coordinators also contributed to the class's attendance rates. In their consistently positive feedback surveys, participants recognized the value of the class, which has laid a strong foundation for Fondren 101 offerings in future semesters.

*Joe Goetz*  
Information Literacy Librarian



## Kelley Center Head Wins Award



**Katherine "Kathy" Hart Weimer**

Katherine "Kathy" Hart Weimer, head of the Kelley Center for Government Information, Data and Geospatial Services, was awarded the MAGIRT Honors Award from the American Library Association (ALA) Map and Geospatial Information Round Table at this year's ALA annual conference in Orlando. The award is given to someone "in recognition of outstanding achievement and major contributions to map and geospatial librarianship and to the round table."

Kathy's service to MAGIRT began in 2005–06 as vice-chairwoman and chairwoman of the education committee. In that role, she coordinated and led the creation of the "Map, GIS and Cataloging/Metadata Libraries Core Competencies" that was adopted and published by ALA in 2008. She later served as vice-chairwoman, chairwoman, and past chairwoman of the round table, from 2008–11. While serving as chairwoman, she mentored an ALA emerging leaders group, which led to a name change of the round table to better reflect its digital turn. In addition, she also wrote "Founding of ALA's Map and Geography Round Table: Looking Back to See the Future," which serves as a published history of MAGIRT.

Beyond Kathy's contributions to the round table, the honors award recognizes contributions to the larger profession. In that realm, Kathy also is an active leader, serving since 2010 as co-editor of the *Journal of Map & Geography Libraries*; she is the co-founder and co-chairwoman of the GeoHumanities Special Interest Group within the international Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations. She has a strong record of published articles and formal presentations on maps and geographic information in libraries and related areas of geohumanities and spatial thinking. Her pioneering work in making cartographic resources

available to all, such as digitizing the 227 folio set of the "Geological Atlas of the United States" and creating an interactive map-based resource in "Mapping Historic Aggieldand," has had a major impact on fellow map librarians. To quote from a letter of nomination, "In short, Kathy represents the best of MAGIRT and our profession." We congratulate Kathy on this achievement.

*Paige G. Andrew  
Penn State University  
Past Chairman, MAGIRT*

## Acquisitions Coordinator Retires

Liliana Acero, firm orders coordinator in the acquisitions department, was honored at a retirement party Sept. 16, 2016.

Acero came to Fondren in 1987 as a temporary shelve in the access services department. She later worked in several areas in the Technical Services Division, as both a binding assistant and a serials check-in clerk, before assuming her last position in 1992. As firm orders coordinator, Acero assisted with a range of tasks in support of ordering, receiving and paying for library materials complete in a specific number of parts, e.g., single-volume works and multivolume sets such as encyclopedias. In the period just prior to her retirement, she was cross-trained to serve once more in access services at the circulation desk.

Excellent customer service was always a core value for Acero, who received high marks from library vendors for her thoroughness, professionalism and dedication. Her fluency in Spanish was an asset on many occasions.

We will miss her cheerful presence and wish her all the best in retirement.

*Melinda Reagor Flannery  
Assistant University Librarian for Technical Services*



**Liliana Acero**



## Friends of Fondren Library Welcomes New Executive Director



**Mary Lowery**

Fondren welcomed Mary Lowery '88, the new executive director of the Friends of Fondren Library, in July 2016.

Lowery brings to her new position a deep understanding of the Rice community, formed by her experience as an enthusiastic alumna and longtime Baker associate. For six years, she served as Rice's assistant director for university relations and the welcome center. In this role, she expanded her connections across and beyond campus, coordinated visits from international and VIP delegations, developed student leadership programs focused on K-12 outreach and generally enhanced Rice's reach across the broader community.

No stranger to the executive director role, Lowery has amassed extensive experience with the Miller Theatre Advisory Board and the Art Colony Association, Inc. During her 10-year tenure with Miller Theatre, Lowery undertook major capital and programming improvements to bring more than 100 diverse, free programs annually to Houston audiences. Her work at the Art Colony Association developed and delivered high-profile art festivals to raise funds for local charities. She brings to Fondren experience in event planning, public relations and media, as well as a passion for helping boards realize their organizational visions.

In her first months at Fondren, Lowery has been fascinated to learn more about the library itself. "Libraries are evolving rapidly, and Fondren is making changes to support scholarship and learning across campus and beyond," Lowery said. "From the obvious changes like the renovation of the South Reading Room to changes that are less visible, such as collection enhancements, fundraising by the Friends makes a big impact in keeping Fondren at the forefront of university research libraries." She looks forward to managing Friends of Fondren outreach programs to support the library's mission, including lectures and library tours.

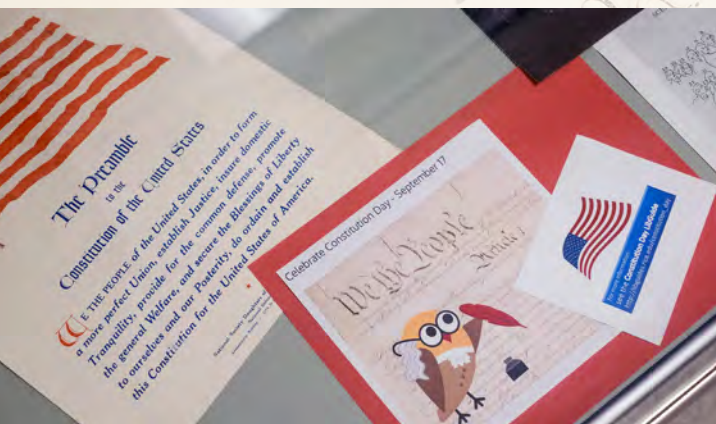
Lowery has noted a high degree of collaboration among the library staff, and is grateful for their willingness to share information openly with her as a new colleague. She is also happy to have been able to consult occasionally with her predecessor in the position, Judy Howell.

When asked how she began her career in nonprofit management, Lowery shared her experience as the first development director of the Audubon Girl Scout Council, including working with others to save the annual cookie sale as the manufacturer went bankrupt. In addition to saving the sale, the experience modeled for the girls how to work with others to solve problems, one of the core skills of a good leader. Lowery continues to model leadership in her work as a Girl Scout volunteer in the San Jacinto Girl Scout Council.

An avid reader, Lowery belongs to a book club and has just started reading "The Thirteenth Tale" by Diane Setterfield. Her fellow club members are a never-ending source of literary insights and book recommendations.

Lowery looks forward to serving with the Friends as they support Fondren Library's evolving mission. She can be reached at [mary.lowery@rice.edu](mailto:mary.lowery@rice.edu) or at extension 5157.

*Melinda Reagor Flannery*  
Assistant University Librarian for Technical Services



## Constitution Day 2016 at Fondren

The Kelley Center for Government Information, Data and Geospatial Services hosted a Constitution Day event Sept. 15. This annual event, celebrated across the country, coincides with the date that the U.S. Constitution was signed, Sept. 17, 1787.

This year, Kelley Center staff members held a four-hour event to engage the Rice community about the Constitution. Free pocket copies of the Constitution were handed out and staff members demonstrated an online game about the Constitution and invited students to write down their thoughts about the document. Students shared a number of concepts, including, The power of freedom lies within each individual, and Protecting the rights of each and every American. Participants were encouraged to enter a raffle for a book, mug and Coffeehouse gift card.

In addition to the Constitution Day table, Fondren staff members who are Harris County deputy voter registrars hosted a table to register voters. The voter registration was very popular, and this dual-purpose event helped spotlight key elements in our country's founding and governance structure.

In addition to the event, two exhibit cases in Fondren Library showcased materials on each of these topics. The voting exhibit can be found in the first floor elevator B lobby and the Constitution Day exhibit is located in the basement elevator A lobby. Materials in the exhibit cases were borrowed from the Federal Depository Library collection held at the Kelley Center for Government Information, Data and Geospatial Services.

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



## Music Librarian Heads East to Build Collection

This June, I traveled to China, South Korea and Taiwan with Shih Hui Chen, professor and chair of music composition and theory, and Kurt Stallmann, associate professor of music composition and theory, to collect contemporary Asian art music for the library's collection. Our goal was to build a collection of music that would serve as a resource for Chen's new fall class on contemporary and cross-cultural Asian music, and also as a further source of musical inspiration for Rice composers, performers and music scholars.

The idea for the project came up in spring 2015, during Common Practice 21C, a three-day music festival organized by Chen. The festival presented musical works that combined traditional music and instruments from several Asian cultures with Western musical ideas and instruments, as a way to promote musical collaboration between cultures and expand perspectives. Chen, born and raised in Taiwan, has a broad perspective as she was trained entirely in the Western musical tradition. After living for almost 30 years in the United States, her completely Western training began to seem strange to her, so in 2010 and 2013 she returned to Taiwan on a Fulbright Scholarship to study indigenous music.

I asked Chen if there might be music materials best acquired by traveling to Asia, because while Fondren Library currently collects the music of a number of Asian composers, only the most famous are represented by the major American and European publishers. Many other Asian composers working in Asia are well-known and respected there, but are unknown in the Western half of the world. We decided to focus on these composers and thus create a special collection that would not only be useful to current Rice musicians but also unique in this part of the world.

In early 2016, Chen and Stallmann, along with a group of their current and former composition students, presented a concert of new music for traditional Chinese instruments, played by the Little Giant Chinese Chamber Orchestra at the National Concert Hall

in Taipei. The American composers also lectured about their music at the conservatories in Shanghai and Beijing and at a symposium at the Taiwan Normal University's Graduate Institute of Ethnomusicology. Between these engagements, Chen and I made arrangements to meet individually with working composers in the area, to tell them about our project and acquire as much of their music as we could. During our visit, a very eminent Korean composer gave us an impromptu lesson on why Koreans aren't well educated about their national music. In all, we met with 20 composers in Shanghai, Beijing, Seoul and Taipei and returned to Rice with over 200 scores and CDs that would have been difficult or even impossible to identify and obtain from the United States.

More information on Chinese traditional instruments and their use in new music can be found in this helpful post at the New Music Box website, at <http://www.newmusicbox.org/articles/new-music-for-chinese-instruments/>, written by Fulbright scholar Jacob Sudol.

*Mary Brower*  
Music Librarian



# Houston Folk Music Archive Adds Dobson Collection

Woodson Research Center (WRC) — home of the Houston Folk Music Archive, a project documenting three decades of the city's musical heritage — has expanded the collection, making correspondence, notebooks, business files and audio of local singer-songwriter Richard Dobson available for research.

Raised in Houston and Corpus Christi and New Mexico, Dobson graduated from the University of St. Thomas in 1966. He joined the Peace Corps and explored a career in fiction writing before settling on music. For the next three decades, Dobson made Nashville and the Gulf Coast of Texas his home. In Tennessee, he was a part of the Outlaw country scene with fellow singer-songwriters Townes Van Zandt, Guy Clark, Steve Earle and others. In the Houston-Galveston area, he honed his songwriting and recorded albums while working on shrimping boats and offshore oil rigs.

After 40 years of songwriting and 23 albums, his music has been covered by David Allan Coe, Guy Clark, Lacy J. Dalton, Nanci Griffith and Kelly Willis. In particular, his duet "Baby Ride Easy" has seen versions recorded by Carlene Carter and Dave Edmunds, Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash, and Billie Jo Spears and Del Reeves.

Currently residing in Switzerland, Dobson was visiting Houston's Anderson Fair, the legendary folk music venue located off Montrose Boulevard, when he was

contacted by WRC's Norie Guthrie, librarian-archivist and developer of the Houston Folk Music Archive. "We had a recording [of Dobson] at KTRU [Rice's student radio station] in 1980," Guthrie said. After receiving a copy of the KTRU recording, Dobson donated a suitcase full of business files, correspondence, notebooks, records and more to the WRC. His gift provided the foundation for the Richard J. Dobson Collection.

In addition to Dobson's personal correspondence, homemade newsletters and zines, the collection includes rare vinyl recordings released by Dobson: "Rinconada Buttermilk Project," a 7-inch single released in 1978, and "The Big Taste," a 1979 LP self-released in a limited pressing of 200 copies.

The Dobson collection is just one piece of the WRC's ever-growing folk music archive, which traces the local scene that sired artists Lyle Lovett, Robert Earl Keen, Wrecks Bell, Danny Everitt, Vince Bell and more. Other artists currently represented in the archive include Wheatfield (later St. Elmo's Fire), Linda Lowe and Don Sanders.

For more information on the Dobson collection, visit <http://bit.ly/2dKkrPS>. For more information on the Woodson's Houston Folk Music Archive, visit <http://www.facebook.com/houstonfolkmusicarchive>.

*Scott Carlson*  
Metadata Coordinator







Utterback's "Number 2 1980"

## Artwork on the Move in Fondren

As of Aug. 25, 2016, the large paintings by Dorothy Hood facing the library's east entrance were removed and sent to Texas A&M Corpus Christi, where they will be on loan as part of a Hood retrospective exhibit.

Details about these paintings in Fondren can be found at [https://publicart.rice.edu//PubArt\\_Inside.aspx?id=2147483836](https://publicart.rice.edu//PubArt_Inside.aspx?id=2147483836). Both paintings will be returned to the library in December.

Alternate art work, Robin Utterback's "Number 2 1980" and John O'Neil's "Taquaritinga," currently occupy the space, and will remain until the Hood paintings are returned.

*Melinda Reagor Flannery*  
Assistant University Librarian for Technical Services



O'Neil's "Taquaritinga"



## Friends Plan Spring Gala



Kent Anderson

The Friends of Fondren Library supports the library by raising funds necessary for capital improvements and collection enhancements. The Friends' largest fundraising event each year is the Friends of Fondren Library gala. Now in its 37th year, the event brings together friends and supporters to celebrate the organization's achievements and benefit the library's future. This year, the gala will take place at 7 p.m. on Texas Independence Day, Thursday, March 2, 2017, at the River Oaks Country Club, and will feature dinner and both live and silent auctions.

This year's gala honors a family that has contributed much to Rice University: The D. Kent and Linda Anderson Family. Linda and her late husband, Kent, have been lifelong supporters of Rice University. Kent Anderson served on Rice's Board of Trustees for three decades and was named one of only two lifetime trustees, having served on every single board committee, including chairing the committee that selected Malcolm Gillis to serve as Rice's sixth president. Anderson's impact can be felt in all areas of our campus, and the family legacy continues in the Anderson-Clarke Center, co-named with Linda Anderson's brother, Robert Clarke, and his late wife, Jean "Puddin" Clarke. Linda Anderson and their

three children, Clarke Anderson, Huntley Anderson Kubitza and Whitney Anderson Walsh, carry on Kent's tradition of support.

All are welcome to be a part of the 2017 Friends of Fondren Library Gala as underwriters, joining our gala chair Liz Crowell in honoring the Anderson family and supporting the library's mission. Buying or sharing a table with friends and family is a wonderful way to thank our honorees for their legacy of service and enjoy a delightful evening. Your contribution will help Fondren Library maintain its standards of excellence for many years to come.

Please visit [library.rice.edu](http://library.rice.edu) or call the Friends of Fondren office at 713-348-5157 for event ticket information.

*Mary Lowery*  
Executive Director, Friends of Fondren Library



The Anderson family



# Meet the Author Series Features Problem-Solver

Friends of Fondren Library and the Association of Rice Alumni collaborated to present Arnaud Chevallier in the lecture series “Meet the Author” Nov. 15, 2016. Associate Vice Provost Chevallier spoke about his book, “Strategic Thinking in Complex Problem Solving.”

As associate vice provost, Chevallier uses his problem-solving skills to manage campus projects in the office of Academic Affairs. His current projects include policy writing, developing systems to manage campus visitors and creating memoranda of understanding with Rice’s partners in the Texas Medical Center.

Chevallier trained as an engineer, both in France and in the United States. When he entered his professional career, he thought he would “show them how it’s done.” He quickly realized that the engineering skills he had learned in school did not prepare him to function as he had hoped when facing complex new problems. “There was a gap. I liked the tools I was using, they just were not enough,” he said. He found that most solutions required a combination of many disciplines: psychology, management, negotiation and effective communication.

He enjoys teaching ENGI/LEAD 545, a graduate-level elective course which shares a name with his book. His students find this method of problem-solving is complementary to the traditional training in their degree programs. This project-driven class allows students to present their own projects as case studies for the course. Complex problems are broken down into four steps, then students apply the process to complete each step and make weekly progress toward their goals, using their colleagues as sounding boards.

- Frame the problem
- Diagnose the problem
- Find solutions
- Implement solution

Students come to the class from all areas of campus, so they have to leave their jargon behind and find ways to communicate their multidimensional projects to their team members. They learn how to use analogies and to express themselves in clear, simple terms.

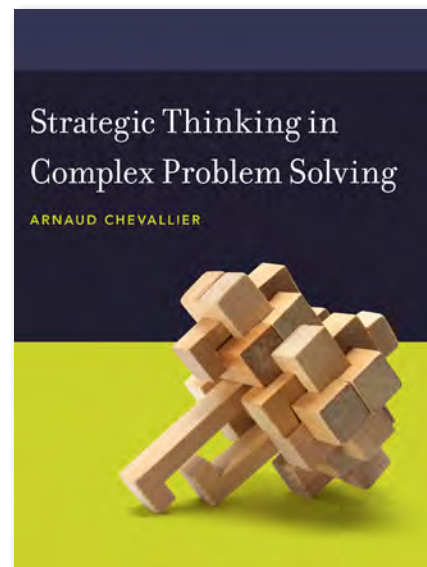
One of the favorite case studies in his course is the story of Harry, a barely concealed version of Chevallier’s 13-year-old beagle, William. One day, Harry disappears from home just a few hours after the family housekeeper was let go for doing a lackluster job and threatening retaliation. Has Harry escaped? Or was he dognapped? Students use the problem-solving process to determine what happened to Harry.

When Chevallier is not teaching or problem-solving, he can be found playing guitar in one of Houston’s French restaurants with his duo Kirby-sur-Seine. They play cover songs that are familiar in both English and French such as “House of the Rising Sun” and “Fly Me to the Moon” and several Nat King Cole songs. He is an avid runner and cyclist, completing the Memorial Hermann Ironman Texas triathlon in The Woodlands several times with plans to participate again in April 2017.

*Mary Lowery*  
Executive Director, Friends of Fondren Library



Arnaud Chevallier



## NEWS from FONDREN

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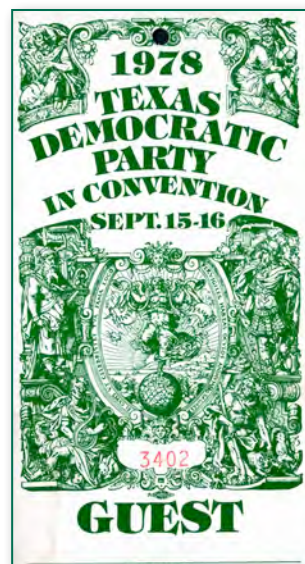
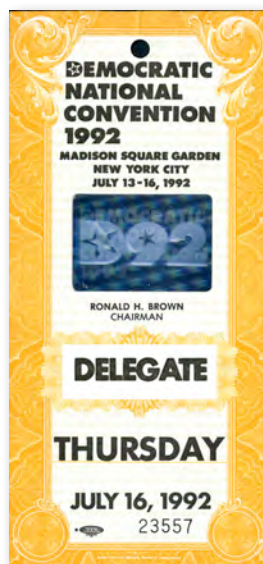
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## 'Tis the Season

Woodson Research Center (WRC) holds a wide variety of election and campaign material, including items from the 1928 Democratic National Convention and the 1992 Republican National Convention held in Houston. Displayed here are memorabilia from two WRC collections: the Douglas Harlan Texas and National Politics collection (MS 538) and the Billie Carr political papers (MS 373).

*David M. Bynog*  
*Assistant Head of Acquisitions*