

Preserving Houston's Jewish History



Rabbi Sarah Fort and Josh Furman work on storm-damaged materials.

Soon after the rain from Hurricane Harvey stopped, Josh Furman, the Stanford and Joan Alexander Postdoctoral Fellow in Jewish Studies at Rice, texted Melissa Kean, university historian, with an archival emergency. Less than an hour later, Furman and Kean met at the United Orthodox Synagogues to rescue records from the flood. Kean was not prepared for what she saw — a “sickening” amount of damage, and evidence that water had risen perhaps six feet high throughout the building, including in a storage closet holding board meeting notes going back to 1937.

After donning masks and gloves, Furman and Kean got to work. With the help of Furman’s wife, Alisha Klapholz, they set damp materials on tables and began sliding dry

paper between soggy pages, racing against the threat of mold and other damage. Kean took home some particularly vulnerable records so that she could blow dry them page by page, reading as she went. As Kean recalls, she was happy to discover that the recording secretary of the board of Beth Jacob synagogue decided to write only on one side of the paper, since the ink would have been indecipherable if he had written on both sides. Later they also helped to save records at Congregation Beth Yeshurun.

Furman’s and Kean’s efforts to preserve Houston’s Jewish history extend beyond their quick action following Harvey. Beyond preserving materials, they decided they needed to collect them and make them available to scholars and

the public, especially since there is no central archive focused on the study and preservation of Houston Jewish history. In partnership with Fondren Library’s Woodson Research Center (WRC), Furman and Kean are building the Houston Jewish History Archive, which is dedicated to the study and preservation of Jewish life in South Texas. The flood brought urgency to ensuring that unique historical records are cared for by experienced archivists in a safe environment. As Furman says, the collaboration between Jewish Studies and WRC draws on each of their strengths: “If you have historians who are well versed in the history of Jewish life in Houston and combine that with the archival expertise of WRC staff, you have a natural partnership for this kind of work.”

continued on page 4

CHECK IT OUT!

Pg. 3 Fondren Opens Doors After Harvey

Pg. 7 Lactation Room New to Library

Pg. 14 Improved Access to Major News Sources



RICE

Fondren Library

Houston Archives Bazaar Celebrates Houston History

Just over two weeks after Hurricane Harvey made landfall on the Texas coast, the Archivists of the Houston Area (AHA!) hosted the inaugural Houston Archives Bazaar, an engaging free event showcasing to the public the unique collections of area archives. Co-sponsored by Woodson Research Center and held in the afternoon Sunday, Sept. 10 at White Oak Music Hall, the bazaar welcomed over 200 attendees from the Houston community. Inspired by colleagues in Austin who have held similar events, the bazaar showcased the holdings of 20 cultural organizations in a fun and accessible way, including exhibits of repository holdings, an oral history booth, a photo scanning station, archival film screenings, speakers, door prizes, food trucks and more. In consideration of the many Houstonians who sustained flood damage, volunteers from the Texas Cultural Emergency Response Alliance (TX-CERA) drove from Austin to staff a booth demonstrating recovery of water-damaged photographs and books.

The entire WRC staff volunteered at the bazaar. Rebecca Russell organized the Woodson booth, which included materials from the Houston Asian American Archives (<https://haaa.rice.edu/>), the Houston Folk Music Archive (<http://bit.ly/2iSNGLc>) and the Rice University historical images collection (<https://scholarship.rice.edu/handle/1911/69834>). Amanda Focke, Dara Flinn and Norie Guthrie were part of the oral history booth, gathering sound recordings of interviews preserving eyewitness accounts of Houston history. Stories were collected from people who shared memories of the area in the 1930s to others who moved to Houston to work later in life and found a home here. Lee Pecht gave an address with colleague Sarah Canby Jackson of the Harris County Archives, detailing the history of AHA! and its influence on the local archival community.

Founded in 1999, AHA! exists to promote archival repositories and the archival profession in the greater Houston area, including members from Houston/Harris County, Galveston, Angleton/Brazoria County, Prairie View and College Station. The membership includes professionals from religious organizations; academic, genealogical, public and private libraries; government and corporate institutions; museums; research institutes and vendors and graduate students pursuing education in archival studies. AHA! offers professional development classes, field trips to local repositories, programming on archival topics at meetings and outreach events to the community. The staff of WRC has been deeply involved in AHA! activities over the years and individual staff members have previously served on the board as president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, program committee chair and web committee chair.

Special thanks are due for the generous support provided by our community partner, White Oak Music Hall, which accepted the event's bid to participate in its program for community activities. John So, husband of Fondren database and metadata management coordinator Jeanette Sewell, facilitated this collaboration. The success of the inaugural event has already led to plans for another bazaar in 2019.

More information on the Houston Archives Bazaar can be found at <http://bit.ly/2mkW3u4> or on the Facebook page at <https://facebook.com/houstonarchivists/>.

Dara Flinn

Archivist/Special Collections Librarian



Rebecca Russell and Lee Pecht show items from the Woodson Research Center.

Fondren Library Provides Crucial Services in Harvey's Aftermath



L to R: Mauricio Prado, Heidi Vieira, Rebecca Russell, Norie Guthrie, Alexis Latner, Da'Vian Smith, Jeanette Sewell

While many Houstonians were still getting back on their feet after Hurricane Harvey hit Houston Aug. 26, Fondren Library staff were thinking about how crucial services could be provided to students as soon as possible.

Luckily, two staff members, Norie Guthrie and Rebecca Russell, live on campus and were pleased to serve when many were unable.

Russell, archivist/special collections librarian said, "As a resident associate at Hanszen College, I was glad to be able to provide some normalcy for students during the disruption caused by the storm and a space for them to decompress." Alexis Latner, access services associate, noted, "I live across the street from Braes Bayou and my car was flooded in the storm.

But when the floodwaters receded I was able to walk to campus to work at Fondren. I was happy to have somewhere to go! Best of all, we were thanked by the students, faculty and staff for being here so they could come to the library."

Living nearby, Sue Garrison, access services manager, quickly realized that with the on-campus Fondren staff and a few others she could have the library up and running by Monday, Aug. 28 at noon. Though hours were limited the first week, many services were available, including study rooms, phone chargers and OwlNet computers. By Sept. 5, Fondren Library's normal schedule resumed.

According to Garrison, "Fondren experienced water damage, as did several other buildings on campus.

The first day we opened, we were working fast to catch leaks, spread out wet items, set up fans to dry books and move our DVD collection out of danger. In addition to staff who were able to work, a student volunteer showed up out of nowhere, apparently in answer to the university administration's plea that students pitch in where they could. He quietly assisted where needed, but disappeared without a trace. Russell did a bit of sleuthing and learned that the student was Matthew Frizzell '21, a first-year student at Hanszen. Fondren Library is grateful to Frizzell along with its own student workers, many of whom resumed their shifts that week, allowing staff to check in with their own families.

Debra Kolah
Head of User Experience

Fondren Boosts Undergraduate Creative Writing at Rice

The winners of the first annual Fondren Library Undergraduate Creative Writing Awards were announced April 20, 2017. The Susan Wood Prize in Poetry went to Erica Cheung, the Max Apple Prize in Nonfiction to Jasmine Lin and the Larry McMurtry Prize in Fiction to Alison Liu. All three prizes of \$1,000 each were sponsored by Fondren Library's Hobby Family Fund and are named for former professors of creative writing at Rice.

Rice English professor and fiction writer Amber Dermont announced the winners at a Cherry Series Reading, which featured Lacy Johnson, assistant professor of creative writing, and Justin Cronin, writer-in-residence, reading from their nonfiction and fiction, respectively. The Cherry Reading Series is sponsored by Fondren Library's Robert Foster Cherry Endowment and the English Department, and brings nationally known authors to Rice for readings and classes. This particular reading brought together students and their teachers in a celebration of creative writing at Rice.

The Fondren Library Undergraduate Creative Writing Awards arose out of a collaboration between the Rice English department and Fondren Library as a way to expand opportunities for undergraduates to gain recognition and reap rewards for their poetry, fiction and creative nonfiction. Over 50 students submitted work, some in multiple genres. The library and judges from the English department were excited by both the quantity and very high quality of the entries. Congratulations to our undergraduate writers.

Joe Goetz
Information Literacy Librarian



L to R: Justin Cronin, Paul Otremba, Alison Liu, Jasmine Lin, Amber Dermont, Erica Cheung, Lacy Johnson, Ian Schimmel

CONTINUED FROM
PAGE 1



L to R: Melissa Kean, Josh Furman, Monica Woolf

They are collecting materials from institutions and families, including old bulletins, program directories, photographs, synagogue records, yearbooks, synagogue cookbooks and more. One of Furman's favorite items is a program guide from 1972 that reveals that Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel spoke in Houston a few weeks before he died. According to Furman, the archive will provide insights into "how ethnic groups in the U.S. try to perpetuate their heritage and traditions while also becoming American." The archive reflects their own research interests; Furman is writing a book about the history of Houston's Jewish community and its migration to Meyerland during the 1950s and 1960s, while Kean has been studying the history of Jewish Rice for approximately 15 years.

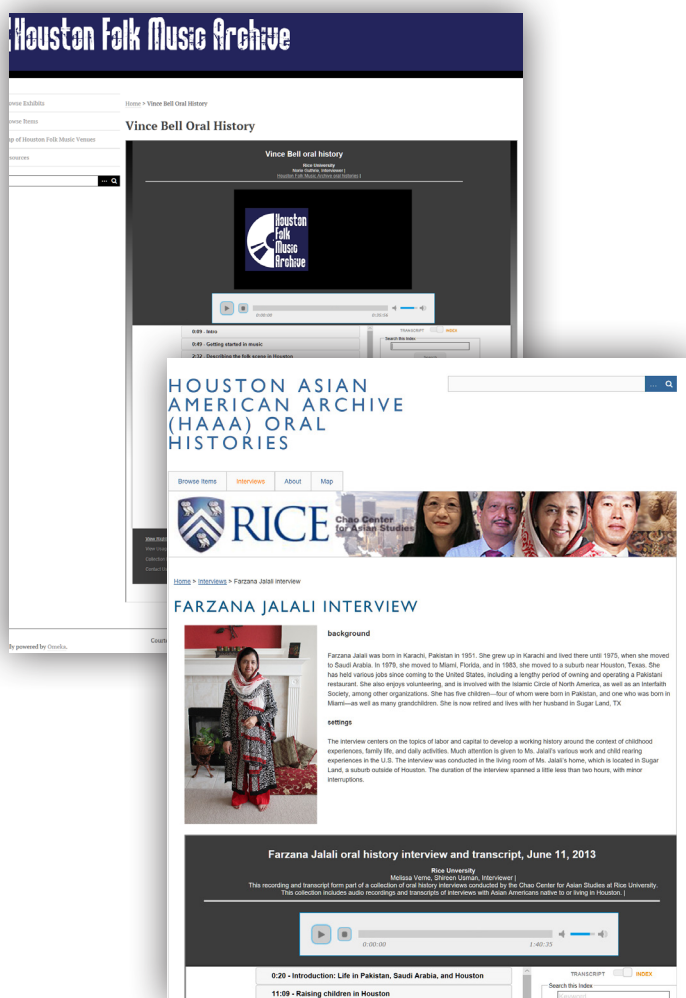
Recently Furman and Kean won a grant from the Texas Jewish Historical Society in support of their work, and they are seeking additional funding. As the archive develops, they plan to create a website to host digitized materials and video overviews, conduct outreach to K-12 educators and host lectures and conferences about Houston's Jewish history. Furman also hopes to teach a class in which students use the archive. To donate materials to the archive, contact Melissa Kean (kean@rice.edu) or Josh Furman (joshua.furman@rice.edu).

Lisa Spiro
Executive Director of
Digital Scholarship Services

Oral History Collections Get a Beautiful Boost

Fondren Library has recently begun providing an engaging new interface for its online oral histories and selected musical recordings. Known as the Oral History Metadata Synchronizer (OHMS), the tool was developed by Doug Boyd at the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History and has been implemented in Rice's institutional repository at scholarship.rice.edu. OHMS connects the audio or video with the transcript, so that viewers can easily listen and read on the same screen, keyword search the transcript and jump to that place in the recording, and even get a bird's-eye view of the index to an interview. Oral histories in the Houston Asian American Archive, Houston Folk Music Archive, Houston Area Rainbow Collective and the Rice University Women's Studies archive have all been enhanced with this treatment. Additionally, music recordings from the Shepherd School performances are being enriched by this presentation, where information from the program serves as the index to the single audio file.

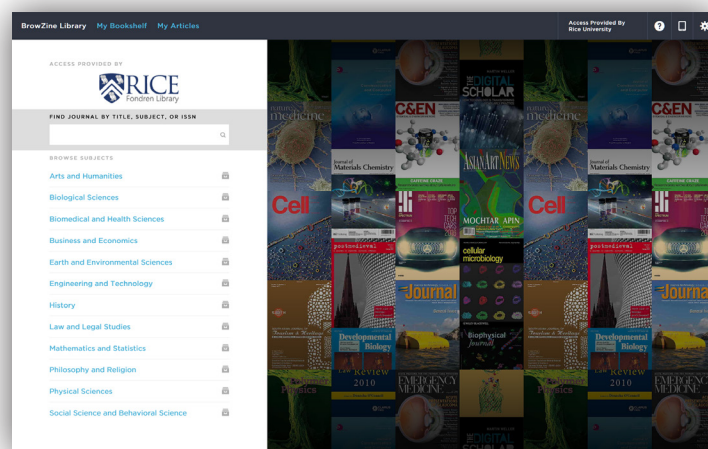
Amanda Focke
Assistant Head, Woodson Research Center



Reading Ejournals is Easier With BrowZine

BrowZine is a tool for browsing Fondren Library's electronic journal subscriptions. The tool simplifies your reading experience and allows for you to customize how you browse. In addition to browsing journals by subject area or title, you can set up a personal library of journals to follow (My Bookshelf) and save articles for later (My Articles). BrowZine is available via a web browser or the BrowZine app. Please note that BrowZine is for browsing academic journals only. It does not support browsing magazines and newspapers in the library's collections. If you see your favorite academic journal missing from BrowZine, please contact the library at eresources@rice.edu to find out if your journal can be added. To get started using BrowZine, go to <http://libguides.rice.edu/browzine>.

Scott Vieira
Electronic Resources Librarian



Student Ambassador Photo Diaries

Five of the Fondren Library ambassadors (News from Fondren, v. 26, no. 1, Fall 2016) undertook a photo diary project during the spring 2017 semester. The project entailed responding to 21 prompts. These included, “your favorite study area in Fondren Library,” “a place in the library where you feel lost” and what they consider the most and least popular places in the library. This concept was popularized from the work of anthropologist Nancy Foster in her “Studying Students” (<http://hdl.handle.net/1802/28781>).

Each prompt was answered with one photo from each student. The UX office worked to compile the photos and responses to each prompt and analyze them. There are three initial findings from the analysis:

1. Group study space remains a challenge. While there are many excellent spaces for silent or quiet study in the library, the reservable study rooms are the only spaces in the library students use for group/collaborative study. Students have expressed interest in an open, collaborative study area that does not have to be reserved.
2. Navigating the stacks remains a challenge. No surprise here, but 100 percent of participating students cited the stacks on the third and fourth floors as the place in the library where they feel lost.
3. The South Reading Room on the first floor is a success. Students mentioned some of their favorite parts of the room, including: big open tables to study with friends, the easy access to outlets and the updated furniture. The single-person study booths are especially popular.

Debra Kolah
Head of User Experience



L to R: Reagan Hahn and Meghana Guar, Fondren student ambassadors



Fondren Adds New Mothers' Room

Just before the fall semester, Fondren Library opened a new lactation room on campus. What is a lactation room? Rice University Human Resources defines it as “a place for nursing mothers to pump breast milk or nurse their child in a private and comfortable setting.” (<http://people.rice.edu/benefits-rewards/other-benefits/lactation-room/>)

The business, health and societal benefits of supporting working parents' ability to continue breastfeeding are too numerous to detail. But one graduate student who preferred to remain anonymous was willing to share how this new space has affected her life:

“The mothers' room makes it possible for me to finish my dissertation as I care for my infant son. He loves the library and the room, which is very welcoming and even has a pillow I can use while nursing him. There are so many health benefits to breastfeeding, for me and my son, but there are just as many logistical challenges. I am so grateful to have a space where I know I can always find a comfortable place to feed him and meet other mothers who are in similar situations.”

Sara Lowman, vice provost and university librarian, approved the proposal and funding of the project. Fondren UX office librarian Amanda Thomas led the project team, with colleagues Joe Hatfield and Jeff Koffler contributing design and remodel concepts.

Debra Kolah
Head of User Experience



Fondren Library and Student Workers Collaborate for Success

Fondren Library hires approximately 75 student workers each academic year to work throughout the library. We checked in on a number of former student workers from the Digital Media Center (DMC) and the User Experience (UX) Office to see how the experience of working at Fondren Library had shaped their paths.

Anneli Joplin '17, is currently instructor of visual communication and design for Rice's Program in Writing and Communication. Working

paved the way for my current job."

Student workers in the UX office have helped with the usability testing that led to the adoption or improvement of Fondren systems such as the journal search database and the library website, and even university systems such as Canvas, the new learning management system. They have helped analyze survey data to help Fondren make data-driven decisions. For some students finishing degrees in cognitive psychology and human-computer interaction, the UX office

insights into recommendations and, most importantly, how impactful understanding the user can be on a product or service."

Hao Yan '17 worked in the UX office in summer 2015 as a graduate research assistant. The work was his first nonclassroom experience of applying UX skills to research. Yan helped design and conduct comparative usability assessments of university learning management systems and recruited faculty, student and staff usability testers of the library website. Hao landed a summer internship at Google before his current position as a user researcher at Facebook.

Mitchell Massey '15 is currently a project manager at 900lbs of Creative. "Working now at an innovation lab and creative marketing studio, I see how my Fondren UX job prepared me for planning across diverse stakeholder groups and seeing how organizations make decisions and how projects are delivered."

Danae Holmes '15 started work at Google right after graduation and is now a UX researcher at Twitch. In 2014, she did user testing, helped the UX office design usability surveys for the improvement of Fondren Library's website and worked with users to improve the Fondren study rooms.

Pauline Chen '17 helped improve the user interface of the study room reservation system, worked on many weekly guerilla testing projects and helped shape some of the library's physical improvements. Currently an architecture intern in France, she will be using user experience methods to inform her architecture career.

Debra Kolah
Head of User Experience

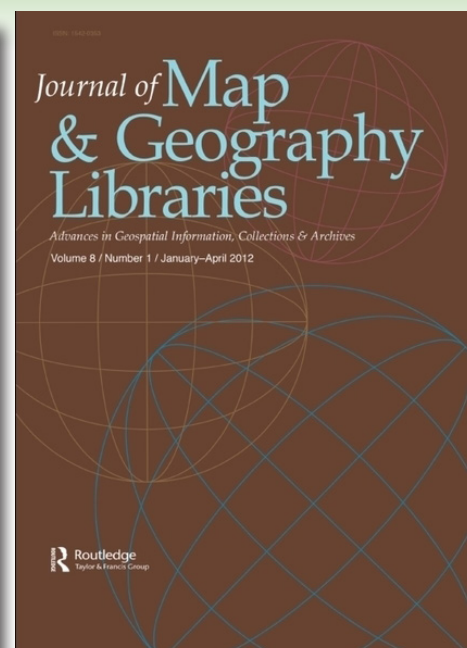
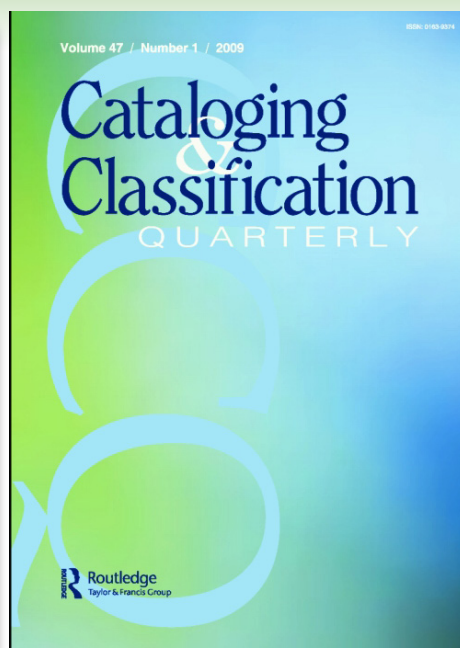
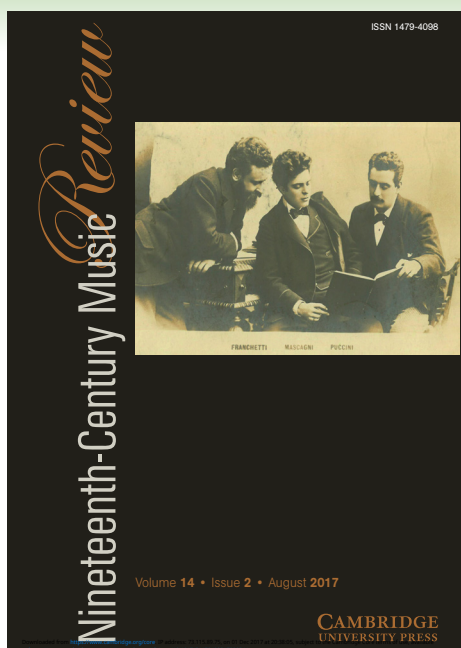


Amanda Thomas visited Hao Yan on her visit to Google's Mountainview, Calif., campus, July 2016.

in the DMC from spring 2016 through May 2017, Joplin developed and taught new workshops, including Basics of Whiteboard Animation and Introduction to Adobe Animate, and a series on Creating Digital Illustrations for Your Research. She shared: "My work at Fondren was one of my most valuable professional development experiences at Rice. The supportive work environment helped me learn more about important topics outside of my academic curriculum and

provided their first opportunity to do UX work as collaborative partners.

Daniel Machado '13 learned user-centered design principles and how to use testing software such as Morea in the UX office as he helped develop many initial practices there. Now a UX researcher at Twitter, he reminisced: "I was lucky to find an opportunity on campus to learn how to administer different methods, scope research, translate



Staff Presentations and Publications

David M. Bynog's review of the Mannheim String Quartet's recording of works by Joachim Raff was published in the Aug. 2017 issue of 19th Century Music Review (<http://bit.ly/2hxO1N6>).

Scott Carlson published a journal article, "Using OpenRefine's Reconciliation to Validate Local Authority Headings," Cataloging and Classification Quarterly (Volume 55, Number 1, 2017), DOI: 10.1080/01639374.2016.1245693. He gave several presentations, including "Starting Your Own Reissue Record Label," SXSW 2017 Music Conference, Austin, March 16; "Grateful Data: Data Cleaning, Digital Humanities, and Deadheads" and "If You Build It, Will They Come? Optimizing Your Linked Data Project," Texas Library Association Annual Conference, San Antonio, April 20-21; "Data Refuge: Where Are We Now and Where Do We Go From Here?" American Library Association Annual Conference, Chicago, June 25 and "Linked Data, Your Library, and You," American Association of Law Librarians Annual Meeting, Austin, July 16.

Carlson also participated in a panel discussion, "The Music Never Stopped: The Future of the Grateful Dead Experience in the Information Age," Audio Engineering Society International Convention, New York, Oct. 20; contributed a poster, "Creating a Linked Data-Friendly Metadata Application Profile for Archival Description," Dublin Core Metadata Initiative 2017 Conference, Washington D.C., Oct. 27, and led a "Metadata Analysis Workshop," Digital Library Federation Conference-Associated Event, Pittsburgh, Oct. 26.

Kathy Weimer presented on a panel, "After the Mandates & Manifestos, What Next? The Denton Declaration at 5," Open Access @UNT : Making Use of Public Data, Frisco, TX, May 19, 2017. With M. McGee and K. Durante, she co-authored "Toward a Linked Data Model for Describing Cartographic Resources," Journal of Map and Geography Libraries v13(1): 133-144, 2017. She presented an invited paper, "Spatial Thinking," at the Western Association of Map Librarians Annual Conference, Austin, TX, Nov. 2, 2017.

Jane Zhao presented a breakout session, "The DMC Studios, Helping Bring Projects to Life" at NMC 2017 summer conference, Boston, Mass., June 6, 2017.

Staff Retirement — Linda Spiro

Recent Fondren retiree Linda Spiro began working in libraries as an undergrad student at the University of Dallas, and continued there while her husband worked on his Ph.D. She then rose to become head of the serials/government documents department while earning a special education master's and mothering her toddler, Lisa. When her husband took a job at Rice in the physics department, Spiro embarked on a 25-year teaching career, first with elementary and middle school learning-disabled students and then teaching pregnant students in a one-room school setting while adding a son to the family and completing the equivalent of a master's in educational supervision and management from Stephen F. Austin University. After retiring from teaching, Spiro entered the Master of Library and Information Science program at the University of North Texas.

In 2003, Spiro joined Fondren Library, with eventual promotion to become government information and education librarian in 2006, on completion of her library degree. She is the creator of over 40 LibGuides that help with the dissemination of government- and education-related information. Spiro enthusiastically taught classes related to government information, patents and education; chaired or co-chaired many committees and organized numerous events while serving as chair of the

Accessibility Committee and co-chair of the Staff Activities and Events Committee and of the Library Travel, Training and Development Committee. Nationally, she has served as an officer and committee chair for the Government Documents Roundtable of the American Library Association and sat on committees for the Patent and Trademark Resource Center Association, writing articles for both groups.

Her former supervisor, Kathy Weimer, head, Kelley Center for Government Information, Data and Geospatial Services, stated, "Linda helped get me up to speed on all things Rice and Fondren. I miss having her next door!"

In retirement, Spiro enjoys singing with her church choir and getting together with family, all of whom have Rice connections. Husband Bob retired from the physics and astronomy department in 2014. Son John '04 is a Rice graduate, as are daughter Lisa Spiro '92 and her husband Richard Johnson '92, Rice's director of energy and sustainability. Lisa is Fondren's executive director of Digital Scholarship Services, and even grandchildren Sam and Lucy Johnson are already immersed in Rice culture.

Debra Kolab
Head of User Experience



Bob Spiro (husband) and Linda Spiro



L to R: Lisa Spiro (daughter), John Spiro (son), Sam Johnson (grandson), Bob Spiro (husband), Lucy Johnson (granddaughter), Richard Johnson (son-in-law) with Linda Spiro



L to R: Melinda Flannery and Jiun Kuo



L to R: Stephanie Kuo, Jiun Kuo, Rebecca Kuo, Ray Kuo

Farewell to Jiun Kuo

When Jiun Kuo retired April 2017 after a distinguished career of more than 32 years in the library, the foundation of Fondren shook just a little bit at the loss of both an important part of our institutional memory and an utterly contemporary strategist.

Kuo joined the library staff in 1984 as a library assistant III. By May 1985, she was a catalog librarian with some systems responsibilities, cataloging multiple formats and a major player in the transition to NOTIS, one of Fondren's earliest automated library systems. By 1987, she was supervisor of the copy catalogers, where she formally began to motivate those around her as she did to her last day of work. She was among the members of the first Staff Development Committee in 1990. A constant help during the period of our migration to Sirsi, Kuo became head of cataloging in 2002, and her list of contributions in that position include broadening expertise to non-MARC metadata, loading vendor records, updating the Romanization of Chinese cataloging records, modernizing serials cataloging, advising on building renovations, adding non-Roman vernacular characters to the catalog, evaluating library service platforms, reconciling local and OCLC holdings, chairing many search committees and active professional services at the national level. Her melodic renditions of Chinese folk songs in staff performances were memorable.

Less visible but just as important are the ways Kuo's presence shaped us as her colleagues.

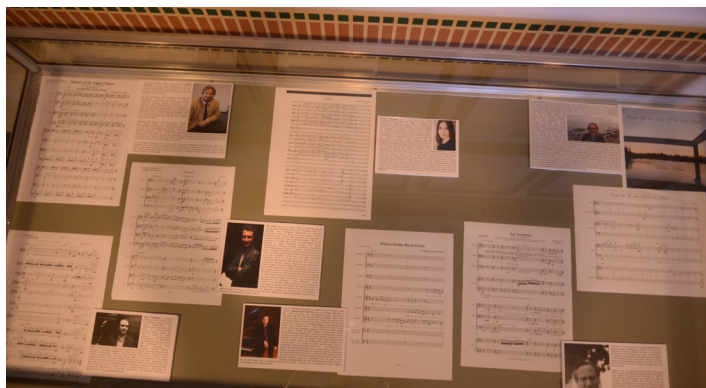
She was encouraging, balanced in her thinking and reactions, gentle in disagreement, discreet and persistent.

Kuo and her husband, Ray, plan to garden and travel in retirement, and enjoy time with their adult daughters.

Melinda Reagor Flannery
Assistant University Librarian for Technical Services



Library Spotlights Turkish Music

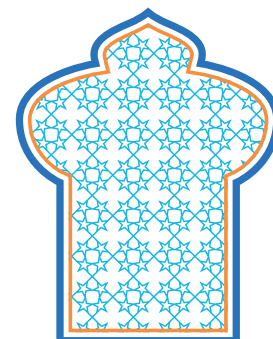
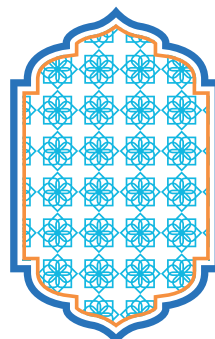
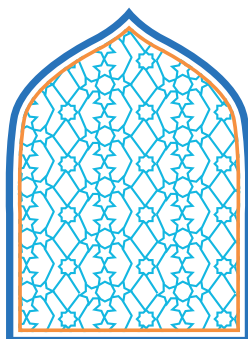
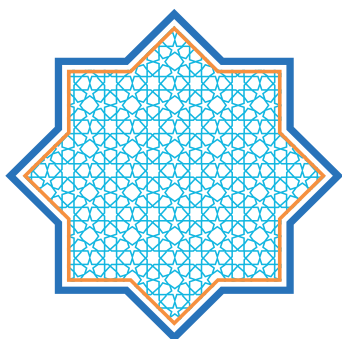
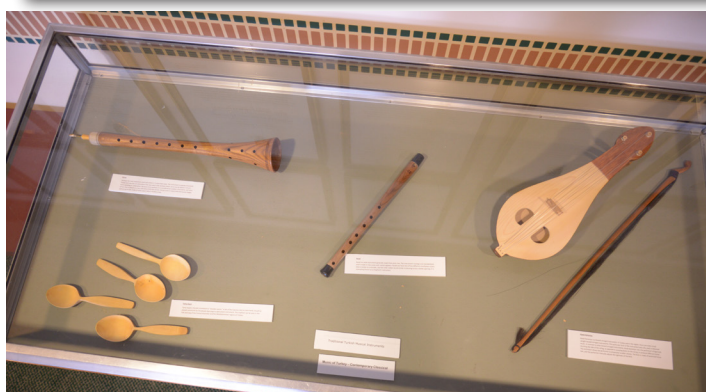


Fondren's third-floor exhibit cases were home this fall to an exhibit on Turkish classical composers and Turkish traditional musical instruments. The exhibit featured living composers and composers of the early Republic of Turkey and has been part of this year's class, Crosscultural Asian Music, taught by Shih-Hui Chen, the chair of the Shepherd School's theory and composition department. The Turkish unit for the class was spearheaded by Shepherd School doctoral student and Turkish pianist, composer and conductor, Erberk Eryilmaz.

"Understanding traditional Turkish music requires us to look at the cultures and states that existed in the geographical location of current day Turkey throughout history," said Eryilmaz. "This includes everything from the Ottoman and Roman empires to Armenians, Persians, Kurds, Romani and Greeks. Musically, Turkey is truly at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. Especially during the 623 years of the Ottoman Empire, the many cultures within its borders formed a musical language that was unique to the empire."

This musical language was established around two concepts, makam, modal pitch organization principles and usul, rhythmic pattern concepts. In addition to the exhibit in Fondren, Eryilmaz organized concerts and lectures on Turkish music at the Asia Society and the Shepherd School, featuring works by contemporary Turkish composers Kamran İnce, Önder Özkoç, Erberk Eryilmaz, Ahmed Adnan Saygun and Ulvi Cemal Erkin. Saygun and Erkin, along with Cemal Reşit Rey, Hasan Ferit Alnar and Necil Kazım Akses, are the Turkish Five, the pioneers of western classical music in the early Turkish republic. These composers used elements of Turkish traditional music in western classical forms, such as the symphony and concerto. Their works were important in the music reform of the Turkish republic, as in earlier days music was taught aurally, and musical notation was seen as the enemy of music-making.

Mary Brower
Music Librarian



Fondren Homecoming Event Celebrates Houston Folk Music Archive

Kicking off with an acapella performance by master of ceremonies John Lomax III, the Houston Folk Music Archive celebration Nov. 9 in the Ray Courtyard of the Rice University Student Center featured and/or celebrated the music of folk performers who have donated their materials to the archive. With the help of the Woodson Research Center (WRC), which houses the archive's materials, and Friends of Fondren Library (FoFL), which provides philanthropic support to the library including WRC, the mini music festival acted as both a homecoming event for Friends and a way to bring together various material donors to the archive with faculty, staff, alumni and even current students.

While some attended the event to relive memories from the 1960s through 1980s and see old friends, others had a chance to learn about Houston's once-thriving folk scene. Performers ranged from duos and bands to singer-songwriters on piano or guitar. The music showcased the importance of songwriting, a hallmark of the Houston folk scene.

The performers included Craig Calvert and Connie Mims of the beloved 1970s band Wheatfield; Leti Garza, performing on behalf of her late brother David Rodriguez; acclaimed singer-songwriter Richard Dobson, with Franci Jarrard on accordion; Linda Lowe and members from her Women in the Round group; George Ensle, celebrating 50 years in the business; the comedy-folk trio The Banded Geckos; Danny Everitt, who once ruled clubs like Theodore's and Corky's; Grammy winner Lynn Langham; the accomplished guitarist and songwriter Jack Saunders and the band Dogtooth Violet, reuniting after 35 years.

All attendees received Houston Folk Music Archive branded gift bags and guitar picks. FoFL event co-chairs Shelley Gottschalk and Gretchen Stephens shared information about how to join Friends of Fondren Library. Tacos were served with complimentary beer donated by Buffalo Bayou Brewery. On a cool, crisp night, new, longtime and former members of the Houston community came together to celebrate the history and enduring legacy of the city's music.



Leti Garza



Linda Lowe with members of Women in the Round



George Ensle



Norie Guthrie
Archivist/Special Collections Librarian

Mary Lowery
Executive Director, Friends of Fondren Library

Update on Access to The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

The New York Times

Fondren Library is pleased to offer to current Rice faculty, students and staff online subscriptions to The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal. Now you can follow the latest news on your phone or tablet or via a web browser, without article reading limits or paywalls. To set up an account, go to <http://libguides.rice.edu/nyt> for The New York Times and <http://libguides.rice.edu/wsj> for The Wall Street Journal.

Scott Vieira
Electronic Resources Librarian

Sacred Zoroastrian Texts in Facsimile Added to Fondren



Botanical Gardens of Shiraz and Qavam House museum.

The Latin motto “Habent sua fata libelli” translates to “Books tend to have fates of their own,” reflecting the unique destinies of many volumes that end up in the Fondren Library collections. Who could have imagined that a trip to Iran by David Cook, professor of Islamic studies at Rice, would result in the acquisition of 57 extremely rare facsimile editions of sacred Zoroastrian texts?

Published in Shiraz during the 1970s and early 1980s by the Asia Institute of Pahlavi University, these books have become virtually impossible to obtain following the Islamic Revolution in Iran. Cook came across a treasure trove of these publications offered for sale in the Qavam House museum in Shiraz during his visit there in 2007.

Described in his travel diary as “moldering away in the darkness” of the museum storage room, the beautifully printed codices turned out to comprise “about the entire Zoroastrian literary patrimony.” Most of them are in the ancient Avestan language with a translation into Pahlavi (Middle Persian). The codices contain a variety of texts in different genres such as liturgies (Yasna), ritual texts, treatises on cosmology (Bundahishn), either published separately or gathered into collections such as the Khordeh Avesta (little Avesta).

The front page of every volume is adorned with the Pahlavi dynasty crest and a dedication: “By Order of Her Imperial Majesty Empress Farah Pahlavi, The Shahbanou of Iran, Patron of the Asia Institute.” Most of the volumes are facsimile editions of codices held in archives and private collections in Bombay (Mumbai).

After taking on the acquisition of the collection and its shipment to Houston, Cook donated it to the Fondren Library, where it will be available to researchers as well as the Zoroastrian community. Fondren is fortunate to have obtained such rare and precious books, which are found only in a handful of libraries, most of them in Europe. Due to their rarity and fragile condition, the facsimiles are kept in climate-controlled storage and can be accessed only by visiting the Woodson Research Center.



Anna Shparberg
Humanities/Social Sciences Librarian

Books That Shaped My World

Rebecca Richards-Kortum is well-known across campus for her work as the Malcolm Gillis University Professor and director of Rice 360°. She is the first Houston scientist, the first Houston woman and the first Rice faculty member to win a coveted “genius grant” from the MacArthur Foundation. Her team is one of four finalists for the MacArthur Foundation’s 100&Change \$100 million grant competition for their work in lifesaving neonatal technologies.

During the Books That Shaped My World lecture presented Nov. 8 by Friends of Fondren Library and co-chaired by Jeff Ross ’75 and Amy and Robert Taylor ’74, guests had a chance to see other facets of Richards-Kortum’s life. She shared her love of running and reading, including her experiences in her first marathon, the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C. Some of her favorite books about running include “Marathon Woman” by Katherine Switzer and “Run the World” by Rice alumna Becky Wade ’11.

Richards-Kortum recommended books she came to love in graduate school, including all of Jane Austen’s works and “The Call of the Wild” by Jack London, and those that caught her attention during her quest for tenure and as department chair like “The Crown of Columbus” by Michael Dorris and Louise Erdrich and “Moo” by Jane Smiley. She also enjoys reading memoirs, mysteries and “really sad books.”



Rebecca Richards-Kortum

In this twice-yearly lecture series, members of the Rice community are selected to share the many ways books have shaped their career and personal lives. We hope that this lecture series inspires new writers and encourages campus scholarship. Please join us for future lectures; they will be featured on our website at www.library.rice.edu/friends.

Mary Lowery
Executive Director, Friends of Fondren Library

Friends of Fondren Library Holds Annual Meeting

As school begins each year, Friends of Fondren Library gathers its members for a dinner and lecture to celebrate the ways the library benefits the Rice community. This year, Hurricane Harvey caused the meeting to be rescheduled to Nov. 9. Houstonians will remember that date for a long time — the day the Astros won the World Series.

Friends of Fondren Library members and other library supporters met in Cohen House, where president Jack Pendergrast acknowledged the dedication of outgoing board members and welcomed incoming ones. He expressed the board’s appreciation of Friends members, whose philanthropy helps expand the library’s collections and improve its facilities.

Provost Marie Lynn Miranda, the featured speaker, is a huge baseball fan, so all the guests were amazed that she turned down a ticket to game no. 7 in Los Angeles to attend the dinner. She specializes in research on environmental health, especially how the environment shapes health and well-being among children. Her talk, “What’s so BIG About DATA These Days?” focused on the story of the “nerd pack,” a team of five students who worked with the provost and the president to gather data about the members of the Rice community immediately after Hurricane Harvey. The members of the pack were Rushi Bhalani ’18, Spencer Chang ’18, Alex Hayes ’18, Napas Udomsak ’19, and Max Grossman, postdoctoral research associate.

The crisis management team formulated a short survey that could be completed on a smart phone and used it to ask faculty, staff and students about their circumstances. Where did they live? Did they have children? Did their home and/or car flood? With this small amount of data, the pack was able to tailor the university’s support for affected employees. They put out a call for house-sharing, and the number of those offering housing rapidly outpaced the number of those in need. The team also was able to react to school closures, quickly understanding how many might need alternative child care arrangements. Using big data to respond to Harvey truly harnessed Rice resources and know-how for the welfare of the entire community.



Marie Lynn Miranda

Mary Lowery
Executive Director, Friends of Fondren Library

NEWS from FONDREN

Vol. 27, No. 1 • Fall 2017

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Eclipse Draws Rice Community Together in Front of Fondren

On Aug. 21, 2017, the day of the solar eclipse, members of the Rice community gathered in the Academic Quad for scientific observation and amazement.