Fondren Library hosted FLI Friday, an initiative of Rice’s Office of Student Success Initiatives (SSI) Oct. 25. FLI Friday is a biweekly outreach luncheon series for first generation and/or low income students as an opportunity to connect with their peers and build community. The library event was held in the Kyle Morrow Room for approximately 40 FLI undergraduate students. Jim Zhang ’23, biochemistry and cell biology, helped organize the event and managed the student reservations. Carli Rosati, Assistant Director, Student Success Initiatives, attended the event as the SSI liaison.

The luncheon provided an opportunity for librarians to mingle with the students. Joe Goetz, information literacy librarian, gave an overview of resources, services and library staff available to help students with their library research.

Additional members of the library team organizing the event were Lisa Spiro, executive director of Digital Scholarship Services, and Amanda Thomas, user experience and public services librarian. Earlier this year, Goetz and Thomas had attended Rice Firsts network supporter training from Jessica Bowers Chukwu, assistant director of SSI. The training highlighted best practices for working with students who identify as first-generation and/or low income. Thomas shared, “The concept of cultural capital discussed in the Rice Firsts training has impacted the way I teach library classes and help students. We should not assume that the students are coming from a place of privilege or that they have had opportunities to learn about things that are second nature to staff and faculty who have been immersed in academia for years.”

Jim Zhang identified as low income and first gen as an undergraduate and was inspired to organize this event after learning that normalizing help-seeking behavior is important for the success of first gen students. The library has started actively promoting the many ways that all students can get help from the library, including texting, calling and face to face.

Fondren looks forward to an ongoing relationship with FLI students as the library continues developing ways to make itself more accessible and useful to low income and first gen students.

Debra Kolah
Head of User Experience
Both of Fondren's student advisory groups are in full swing this semester. Our undergraduate Fondren Library ambassadors are following up last year's photo diary project with a new project this year, study/research logs. They will be filling us in on how and where they are studying throughout the semester, giving us a better picture of how Fondren features in their academic life. This is the third academic year that Fondren Library's UX Office has facilitated this advisory group that contributes valuable feedback to improve services, spaces, and collections.

The library has created a new website to highlight the 2019–2020 ambassadors at https://library.rice.edu/library-ambassadors.

Our Graduate Student Library Advisory Board (GSLAB) has doubled in size since last year's successful pilot. Our graduate students are both distributing news about the library to their colleagues and giving us insights into their own issues and concerns, most recently concerning publishing in professional journals. A listing of 2019–2020 board members is available at library.rice.edu/gslab.

Amanda Thomas
User Experience/Public Services Librarian

Student Advisory Groups Contribute Insights to Fondren Library

Left to Right (Top Row): Sarah Bradford, Loren Goddard, Trevor Egerton, and Maura Boerio. Left to Right (Bottom Row): Jennifer Wang, Emma Young, Melissa Carmona.
Özge Gürcanlı, senior lecturer in the Department of Psychological Sciences, knew that a local documentary, “Seeds of All Things,” was just the thing her students needed, but getting it to them was going to be a problem. It had recently shown at the Rice Media Center followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers but was not available for purchase on DVD or available on streaming services.

Fortunately, Fondren Library was there to help. We were able to talk to one of the local filmmakers, Yan Digilov, ’11, and work with staff across Fondren to find a platform that would protect the filmmaker’s rights while providing full access to Rice students both on and off campus. In the end, we were able to purchase streaming rights to three documentary films on the immigrant and refugee experience in Houston, created by Yehuda Sharim (former postdoctoral fellow in Jewish studies and Kinder Scholar at Rice University) and Digilov: “We Are In It: An Anthology of Border Crossing” (2016), “Lessons in Seeing” (2017), and “Seeds of All Things” (2018).

“This was the best library process I have ever gone through in my entire life,” Digilov said. “Ten out of 10, would work with Fondren again.”

Karen McElfresh, electronic resources librarian, handled the tangled issues of rights and permissions, while Monica Rivero, digital curation coordinator, handled the technical challenges associated with ArtStor, our streaming service provider, and local archiving needs.

Currently, ArtStor (ArtStor.org) is primarily used for fine arts images. But its capabilities for streaming film (and restricting those films to institutional users, when needed) might mean that Fondren turns to it again for similar cases in the future.

Amanda Thomas
User Experience and Public Services Librarian

Starting in March 2019, lecturer and film program manager Tish Stringer reached out to a team of Fondren librarians, including Mira Greene, Andy Damico, Jeanette Sewell and Melinda Flannery, to devise a plan for the Rice Media Center’s film and video collection. As the project has progressed, Stringer has worked with the Woodson Research Center staff, who are sending film reels, U-Matic tape and more to the vendor Scene Savers to digitize the material. To provide long-term preservation access to the digital material, Amanda Focke is working with the Rice Media Center to ensure the film and video’s digital sustainability. Check out Katharine Shilcutt’s Rice News article to learn more at https://bit.ly/2lW5f8C.

Norie Guthrie
Archivist and Special Collections Librarian
Update on Oral Histories at Woodson

Oral history collections at Fondren Library have expanded over the past several years, with many new interviews uploaded to scholarship.rice.edu, and exciting use is being made of them. Audio clips from the oH Project interviews on HIV/AIDS are being featured alongside a current Smithsonian exhibit on epidemics, “Outbreaks,” at Houston’s Health Museum. Houston Folk Music interview clips have been featured in a fascinating StoryMap of Houston’s folk music scene and its venues, from 1961–1990 at http://digitalprojects.rice.edu/houston-folk-music-archive/story-map.


More interviews from the Houston Area Rainbow Collective have been made available, expanding the discussion of LGBTQ+ life in Houston. These interviews are also being featured in an exhibit in Fondren Library during Fall 2019, looking at LGBTQ+ at Rice and in Houston over the years.

Amanda Focke  
Acting Head, Woodson Research Center
In collaboration with the Center for Research Computing (CRC), Fondren Library expanded its research data services last year and now is offering a wide array of 60–90 minute workshops covering data analysis, visualization and management as well as data structures, research computing and programming. Research Data Services is also offering office hours twice a week for faculty, students and staff to obtain assistance with their data projects. In addition, you can request a custom short course or consultation on data training for your research lab, department or other campus group.

The data workshops offered cover introductory to intermediate techniques in a variety of applications that allow students, faculty and staff of any background to develop a foundation in computing. Nineteen different hands-on workshops were offered for fall 2019, including Python, R programming, Excel, Access, SQL, SPSS, Super Computing and Data Management. Research Data Services also provides information about each course, including course materials and resources that can be downloaded directly from Fondren’s webpage. In 2020, Fondren and the CRC are teaming up to sponsor several two-day software carpentry workshops, which provide hands-on training in topics such as R, Git, Python and the command line.

These data classes are being offered as part of Fondren’s overall efforts to increase data literacy levels on campus and also support Fondren’s strategic goal to enhance its data services. More information about Research Data Services can be found at https://library.rice.edu/research-data-services. For questions, please email researchdata@rice.edu.

Who can attend? Current Rice students, faculty, staff and certain members of Friends of Fondren Library.

Where? Most classes are held in the collaboration space, Fondren basement, Room B43A.

When? To see a list of courses currently offered and to register for a class, please go to https://library.rice.edu/data.

Julia Kress
Senior Electronic Resources Assistant

Ajith Kumar
Brown ’21

Data @ Rice: Fondren Offers Research Data Services
In 2017, Fondren fellow Jennifer Lee developed a marketing plan for Digital Scholarship Services (DSS) to promote the department’s services and resources to the Rice community. As part of the project, Lee developed and distributed a survey that asked how frequently the Rice community uses Fondren resources and how it wants to learn about available resources. As a result of the survey, Lee recommended that Fondren communicate with the Rice community through email notifications and newsletters to better reach a larger audience. Lee’s full report can be found at https://hdl.handle.net/1911/102505.

In response to Lee’s report, DSS has developed a plan to promote its services through several online methods, including a blog (http://digitalscholarship.blogs.rice.edu/) and digital newsletter (distributed via campus listservs three times a year). Usage and engagement metrics will be frequently analyzed to further refine the department’s outreach strategy. DSS hopes to gain valuable marketing and outreach insight that can be applied to other areas of Fondren.

Shannon Kipphut-Smith
Scholarly Communications Liaison
Library instruction this fall has been more important than ever as Fondren migrated to a new library services platform and essentially changed the look and feel of everything from locating library materials to searching for course reserve items. The new system OneSearch allows users to search for physical and electronic materials available from Fondren, and Rice users logged on with their NetIDs can gain direct access to articles, e-books, streaming material and more. Twenty-one Fondren 101 classes were offered this fall, beginning the Tuesday after Labor Day and continuing through the beginning of November.

OneSearch allows for a more Google-like search experience, as users search Fondren holdings via the familiar open search bar. For a simple search, users type in a few words and receive results which can then be filtered. An advanced search option is also available in OneSearch. The system's ease of use and mobile friendly platform contributed to simplifying Fondren 101 sessions. Sessions this fall became more of an experiential adventure, with subject librarians guiding students through the most salient stops in the library, along with an explanation on the importance of the area and how it might pertain to their studies. Some librarians chose to incorporate hands-on learning: In one session, a librarian asked students to use their phones, log into the library's catalog, search for a title and then find the book in the stacks. Students quickly became involved in locating the item, even coaching peers who might have had initial difficulties completing the task.

This year's Fondren 101 sessions also offered instructional diversity in that they were taught by eight different subject librarians, each bringing a slightly different approach to delivering the course. Fondren 101 was also shortened to an hour-long session, since less focus was needed on the search process. Student comments have been extremely positive regarding the revised Fondren 101, with many stating they enjoyed the deeper dive into Fondren's spaces. For those looking for a more in-depth overview of how OneSearch works, please see the following quick tutorial at fondrenlearning.blogs.rice.edu/using-onesearch/.

Sue Garrison
Head, Access Services Department
Brown Fine Arts Library Upgrade

The Brown Fine Arts Library, located on the third floor of Fondren Library, just got a lovely upgrade with generous funding from the proceeds of recent Friends of Fondren Library galas. The User Experience (UX) office worked with the undergraduate Fondren Library Ambassadors in spring 2019 to select furniture and other elements of the upgrade. Highlights include removing the circulation desk, adding new carpet and paint, and electrical work. New tables and study carrels feature convenient power pods. The space now also features a new platform bench, side tables and lounge chairs.
The Kelley Center for Government Information, Data and Geospatial Services celebrated Constitution Day Sept. 17, 2019, with activities and events in multiple areas of Fondren Library. Harris County deputy voter registrars were on hand near the west entrance to register patrons to vote.

Anna Xiong, government information coordinator, curated three displays. The “Who Got the Right to Vote and When, 1776–2003” exhibit detailed the history of changes to voting laws. Pictures complemented text outlining how voting laws have changed from allowing only property-owning white males to including African Americans and women through constitutional amendments. The exhibit was a powerful reminder that the right to vote should not be taken lightly.

Xiong also curated an exhibit on “How a Bill Becomes a Law” as well as one arranged according to constitutional amendments on voting rights. Free pocket constitutions, a game to test constitutional knowledge and refreshments were available.

Throughout Fondren, there were multiple white boards for patrons to answer, What does the U.S. Constitution mean to you? Imagine a day without it. Would America be different? Could the country operate without a constitution? The responses written on the white boards included “Protection from tyranny,” “Deeply flawed,” “Something that must grow and change with the nation,” “Needs constant revision to remain strong/useful,” “Ain’t perfect,” “Women were property until 1920” and “The foundation of our nation as we know it.”

Sage Simmons, President of Rice’s Federalist Society, was on hand to enjoy the celebration and shared:

James Madison said it better than I ever could. In “The Federalist Paper No. 51”, he wrote: “If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself.” Limiting the power of the government is as important today as in 1787, and the Constitution has proven itself over the past two centuries to be the best means of securing our liberties against tyranny.

Julia Kress
Senior Electronic Resources Assistant
Anna Xiong started as Fondren Library’s government information coordinator in August 2019. Originally from Nanjing, China, she comes to Rice from Carbondale, Illinois, where she was the government information librarian and associate professor at Southern Illinois University.

Xiong’s work with government documents began more than 18 years ago when she was a library science student at Indiana University Bloomington, working in the government documents department. She noticed that, although government documents provide a wealth of information, searching for and using them can be a daunting task for many. She enjoys the combination of technical, research and reference skills she uses as a government documents librarian.

“Vast amounts of official government publications issued since the 1700s contain valuable information and document history in a special way that people cannot find anywhere else. With some professional assistance, everyone can learn how to search for and use these documents, and you can unlock a hidden treasure,” Xiong said. “I discovered that the field is actually something like detective work, where the search for information is challenging and fascinating. The questions can range from finding the text of a prayer spoken by an astronaut circling the earth to the use of camels by the army during the 1800s. When you find the answer, though, that ‘aha moment’ and the smile on people’s faces are the best rewards.”

Fondren Library is a member of the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) for the 7th Congressional District of Texas. As such, Fondren holds materials published by the U.S. government and provides services that increase awareness of federal government information and ensure equal, free access to it. Xiong plans to promote Fondren as a FDLP on campus and to the Houston community to ensure people are aware that they have public access to government information and can receive assistance searching for and using government documents. She wants to make certain that Fondren Library is one of the best federal depository libraries in the country.

Only a month after her arrival at Fondren, Xiong planned her first library event in honor of Constitution Day (Sept. 17) and curated several informative displays about the Constitution. She was pleased to receive robust support from her Fondren colleagues for the event. Xiong loves owls and appreciates Rice faculty and students as well as Fondren’s innovative and supportive work environment. She is thrilled to be in Houston, which she calls a diverse and vibrant international metropolis. Classical music offerings are a draw for Xiong as her 15-year-old son plays the violin and piano, and proximity to Chinatown allows easy access to all sorts of Chinese delicacies, including her favorite moon cakes.

Julia Kress
Senior Electronic Resources Assistant
Scott Vieira, Fondren Library’s former electronic resources librarian, took on a new role last November as the library’s collection development coordinator. He also supported Fondren by continuing his electronic resources responsibilities until a new electronic resources librarian was hired and trained.

Vieira says the new position opens up unique opportunities to explore his areas of interest, including tackling what he sees as the need for a new approach to collection development, addressing its challenges and using his skill sets in new ways. Some of these challenges include funding, use of space in the library, licensing e-resources and constantly changing purchasing models. He notes, “As we build a collection for the 21st century, we want to look at how we can make the collection stronger, more diverse, meeting the needs of our users today and tomorrow, while at the same time strategically engaging with an assortment of funding and technological challenges and opportunities.”

For Vieira, an exciting aspect of the position is the responsibility for working with subject areas, students and faculty. He now is responsible for building and preserving collections in German studies, women, gender and sexuality studies, philosophy, political science and U.S. history. He also teaches classes and offers help to library users at the reference desk.

Dara Flinn
Archivist and Special Collections Librarian

Amy Ferguson joined the GIS/Data Center as the GIS support specialist in August 2019. Ferguson is well traveled; she comes from a military family and has lived in seven states as well as Germany, Qatar and South Korea. She attended high school in San Antonio. She majored in geology at William and Mary and pursued environmental science at University of Virginia, where she met her husband and where her 1-year-old son was born.

Previously, Ferguson worked as a geospatial intelligence officer in the military. She also was an intern at NASA, integrating NASA’s Earth observations to help meet the challenges of environmental change. Her current work at the GIS/Data Center includes GIS training through short courses and one-on-one instruction, managing and training student employees and researchers, and consulting on GIS projects.

Ferguson and her family have found Houston very welcoming: “A big city with small-town charms, approachable, friendly people, great food, so diverse.” Moving and starting new jobs has filled a lot of their free time, but they look forward to spending time at Memorial and Hermann Parks and becoming better acquainted with the farmer’s market and art festival scenes.

Dara Flinn
Archivist and Special Collections Librarian
Erick Neveu joined the acquisitions department as an accounting assistant in June of this year. He manages the accounts payable for the department, ordering, receiving and paying for library materials.

Neveu grew up in Lafayette, Louisiana, and still tries to make it home to visit every month or so. He went to the University of Louisiana at Monroe and finished his degree in finance at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He moved to Houston in 2012 to pursue a career in accounting, working in corporate oil and gas and property accounting before joining the staff at Fondren. Neveu notes, “Everyone has been so friendly here: Houston is a diverse city, with good weather and excellent food, and is close enough to commute back home to Lafayette.”

Neveu spends his free time at the gym and running in Memorial Park and enjoys the live music scene in the city. Fitzgerald’s (now closed) was his favorite music venue; recently he discovered Anderson Fair, one of Houston’s oldest folk and acoustic music venues. He also enjoys exploring the Houston restaurant scene.

Karen McElfresh is the new electronic resources librarian in acquisitions as of May 2019. She comes to us following six years of service at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. McElfresh is a native Texan who grew up in Houston and attended Klein High School. She received undergraduate degrees in microbiology and clinical laboratory science from the University of Texas at Austin, then received her master’s degree in library science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

As the electronic resources librarian, McElfresh manages all electronic resources, including purchasing and reviewing licenses. She also makes sure electronic resources can be found in the library’s discovery system, accessed both on campus and off, and troubleshoots problems as needed. She negotiates with publishers and vendors, setting up new trials and services. McElfresh also supervises two assistants.

While she does not like the traffic, McElfresh is glad to be back in Houston, where she has family. In the little spare time she has, McElfresh enjoys sewing and reading, and she exercises out of necessity, by her report. She does belong to two book clubs, including Rice Readers, and prefers reading fiction.
Janice Lindquist, Fondren’s longtime head of acquisitions, retired this summer, at the end of the fiscal year, not long after she had won Fondren’s highest honor, the Shapiro Library Staff Innovation Award. (For more details, see https://news.rice.edu/2019/05/28/lindquist-honored-with-2019-shapiro-award/.)

Arriving at Fondren in 1993, Lindquist gradually added to her department responsibilities for a broad range of library payments; negotiating vendor deals; electronic resources licensing, acquisition and maintenance; technical aspects of fund management; mail delivery and a host of other duties. Anything given to her department was done well and with meticulous attention to promptness and detail. Her input was key to successful implementation of library systems. A dedicated supervisor, she consistently pushed her staff forward for training, promotion and other opportunities. Always professionally active, she served with distinction on committees ranging in scope from library to university to national professional associations.

After I spoke to Lindquist’s achievements at the Shapiro Award ceremony in May, prose failed me at her retirement party in June, so I turned to poetry, specifically to an epic limerick. One verse gives a flavor:

Now she leaves us for climes more benign
To enjoy her earned rest with felines,
Also reading and rest.
May these years be the best
And may memories of us be kind.

We wish Lindquist all the best in her well-earned retirement.

Melinda Reagor Flannery
Assistant University Librarian for Technical Services
In summer 2019, Fondren Library sponsored the open access (OA) release of three new Rice faculty-authored books at the same time as their print publication by Duke University Press. Now, as members of the Towards an Open Monograph Ecosystem (TOME) initiative, Fondren will offer to support the OA release of three new books by Rice faculty per year for the next three years.

The Association of Research Libraries, the Association of American Universities and the Association of University Presses began the TOME initiative in 2017 to support OA publication and the dissemination of humanities and social science scholarship at a time when library budgets are under stress and the demand for academic monographs is falling. Through this initiative, Fondren Library will offer book subventions of $15,000 to Rice authors with new books under contract with university presses participating in TOME. Upon the publication of these books, free PDF copies will be made available to download in the Rice Digital Scholarship Archive (RDSA) as well as other repositories such as OAPEN, HathiTrust and the Internet Archive.

Before joining TOME in October 2019, Fondren awarded three subventions to Rice faculty in summer 2019 through a TOME-like arrangement with Duke University Press. These books are: “A Future History of Water” by Andrea Ballestero, “Energopolitics” by Dominic Boyer, and “Ecologics” by Cymene Howe. All three can be downloaded at the links below or by searching the RDSA, Fondren Library OneSearch or a web search engine. The authors hoped that through the OA release, scholars and students around the world could download the books free of charge simply with an internet connection; in fact, the books have already been accessed hundreds of times from the RDSA and other sources. Fondren Library hopes that more Rice authors will take advantage of this opportunity to more freely disseminate their research. Learn more about the program at https://libguides.rice.edu/AuthorFees.

Andrea Ballestero, “A Future History of Water” https://doi.org/10.25611/ecgc8-n043
Dominic Boyer, “Energopolitics” https://doi.org/10.25611/rbb7-zw33
Cymene Howe, “Ecologics” https://doi.org/10.25611/j5kf-mr18
Recognizing the 400-year anniversary of the first enslaved Africans landing on U.S. soil, the new 1619 exhibit focuses on Woodson materials that document this brutal history. Woodson archivists drew from a variety of sources, including rare books, special collections and research files.

Sprinkled throughout the exhibit are selections from our rare book collections. Two of the most notable items are an early first edition of Solomon Northrup’s “12 Years a Slave” (E 444.N87 1853), which contains a small piece of paper in the binding explaining that the plates have not yet been received from the printer. Another is a piece of Confederate propaganda targeted at children. Because of an embargo, Robert Fleming created his own version of Webster’s Elementary Spelling Book, adding Bible passages that support slavery (E 444.N87 1853).

Also included are human bills of sale from the Kuntz Louisiana Civil War collection (MS 256). Another Kuntz collection item is a poster arguing that abolition is not in the best interest of white workers from the North. The Nicholas Bryar Massenburg daybook lists slaves at the back of the book, after the family dog (MS 374). The will and testament of Henry J. Thibodaux includes an inventory of enslaved men, women and children by name, with short descriptions and an appraisal of their market value (MS 256).

Rounding out the exhibit are the research notes of Rice professor Andrew Forest Muir (MS 017). While rummaging through 19th-century Texas newspapers and other archival materials, he typed up quotations and summaries from his sources. These notes document rules pertaining to pre-Civil War black dances in Houston, runaway slave notifications, rumors of slaves running away to Mexico and a will written by a slave owner that bequeaths his slave and her daughter freedom and a parcel of land.

This exhibit will be on display through the rest of the year in Fondren on the third floor outside the Kyle Morrow Room. Woodson staff hope our library users take time to see these sobering objects from the past.

Norie Guthrie
Archivist and Special Collections Librarian

Traci Patterson
Processing Archivist
Buddhist Art Encyclopedia Added in Chinese and English

On June 25 of this year, members of Houston’s Chinese American community joined Rice faculty and students in Fondren’s Asian Reference Alcove to celebrate the donation to the library of the Encyclopedia of Buddhist Arts in both Chinese and English. The gift was facilitated by Lydia Chao and made possible with the assistance of volunteers at the Hsi Lai temple in California and the Chung Mei temple in Houston.

Published in Taiwan by the Fo Guang Shan Buddhist order, the Encyclopedia of Buddhist Arts is a monumental work containing nearly 10,000 entries and over 15,000 full-color images. The English language version is an excellent classroom resource and has the potential to reach a wide audience. The Chinese-language version has almost 3.8 million characters and is an invaluable resource for scholars. Each 20-volume set contains sections on architecture, caves and rock carvings, sculpture, painting, calligraphy, seals, artifacts and decorative arts, and people, as well as a separate index volume.

After a welcome by Sara Lowman, vice provost and university librarian, Ru Chang, fully ordained nun and director of the Buddha Museum, offered remarks. She spoke movingly of the challenges involved in completing a project of such breathtaking depth and scope. Before its completion, many experts in the field had expressed doubts that such a project was even possible due to the unbelievable richness and diversity of Buddhist cultures throughout history.

A 300-person team of volunteers, led by Ru Chang, worked for 12 years to complete this project. Obtaining high quality images was particularly difficult. As little has been known about the creators of Buddhist art through millennia, the addition of the people category was a real breakthrough. A digital version of the encyclopedia is in the planning stages.

The next speaker was Shih-Shan (Susan) Huang, professor of art history and expert on Buddhist and Daoist art. Expressing her admiration for the completeness of this work, she shared numerous examples of how it would be used in the classroom as well as for research.

The library also accepted a set of complete works of Master Hsing Yun, the founder of the Fo Guang Shan order and the driving force behind the encyclopedia project. Both this set and the Chinese-language version of the Encyclopedia of Buddhist Art are housed in the Asian Reference Alcove on the first floor, while the English language version is in the Brown Fine Arts Library stacks on the third floor of Fondren Library.

Anna Shparberg  
Humanities Librarian
Over the past year, Fondren has purchased access to an interesting array of new electronic materials encompassing a wide range of subject matter areas ranging from important newspaper archives to LGBT magazine archives to comic databases.

The library recently purchased the complete Houston Chronicle Historical Archive from 1901 to 2015. The purchase was used as seed money to finance the digitization of the newspaper. Fondren also expanded its collection of historical newspapers, adding archives that cover many different eras and communities, from Civil War era newspapers to Chinese newspaper collections.

Other important purchases include all of Gale’s Primary Source Collection through spring 2019, including topical databases from Political Extremism & Radicalism in the Twentieth Century to China and the Modern World to the Associated Press Collections Online. Fondren also purchased numerous Oxford University Press Bibliographies, so that the library now owns access to 27 different Oxford subject bibliographies. Fondren purchased access to all the Cambridge Companions Online published through 2019, including more than 600 titles. The library also added numerous Adam Matthew databases to its e-collections, including Socialism on Film: the Cold War and International Propaganda.

Another important addition is Fondren’s subscription to STAT Plus, which serves health researchers, including the medical humanities program, by providing access to coverage of science and clinical trials, pharmaceutical company and biotech news. And for something completely unique, make sure to check out ProQuest’s e-databases Underground and Independent Comics, Comix and Graphic Novels and Food Studies Online.

For a complete listing of electronic collections acquired in the past year by Fondren, please visit https://library.rice.edu/new-eresources.

Julia Kress
Senior Electronic Resources Assistant

Ways to Support Fondren Library

Are you interested in supporting Fondren Library in ways that might leverage your gift or reduce your tax bill? Here are three ideas to discuss with your tax adviser.

1) Does your employer offer matching gifts? If so, you can easily double or triple your gift and the impact it will have on Fondren Library, depending on your employer’s program. Contact your human resources team for the most up-to-date information.

2) Make a donation of appreciated securities and save on taxes twice. You can receive a charitable tax deduction for the full value of the stock while avoiding paying capital gains taxes on the appreciated value. Please contact data services analyst Melanie Boyd at 713-348-5800 if you wish to donate stock shares directly to Rice to benefit Fondren Library.

3) If you are 70.5 years or older, consider rolling over up to $100,000 of your individual retirement account (IRA) to Rice University for the benefit of Fondren Library. With an IRA charitable rollover gift, you can exclude the amount you give from your gross income, satisfy your minimum required distribution and fulfill your annual gift or an outstanding pledge for Fondren. Jill Hughes ’79, director of gift planning services, can answer questions about the process of making this sort of gift, and she can be reached at 713-348-6206 or jillhughes@rice.edu.
Friends Annual Meeting and Membership Dinner Held

Each year, members of Friends of Fondren Library gather to reflect on the year’s events and accomplishments at the annual meeting and membership dinner. Board members Barbara D. Byrd and Stephen Wallace ’68 chaired the 2019 meeting at Cohen House Sept. 9.

Kathleen Canning, dean of humanities and Andrew W. Mellon Professor of History was the evening’s keynote speaker, addressing “The Place of History in the Practices of Citizenship.” Canning engagingly described how humanities education fosters civic participation, referencing the works of Hannah Arendt, Walter Benjamin and Natalie Zemon Davis, among others. She also highlighted two recent projects in the School of Humanities involving close collaboration with the library, the symposium Capitalism and Convict Leasing in the American South and publication of Caleb McDaniel’s book, “Sweet Taste of Liberty.” Sara Lowman, vice provost and university librarian stated, “Fondren Library appreciates the support of Dean Canning and the School of Humanities; we look forward to our continued collaboration on projects such as preserving the Rice Media Center tapes as well as continuing to grow the collection to support humanities research.”

Brian James ’78, serving with Catherine James as Friends president for the 2019–20 academic year, welcomed members and thanked Byrd and Wallace for their efforts in chairing the annual meeting. He expressed appreciation for a job well done to immediate past president Bess Wareing ’82 and outgoing board members Peter C. Caldwell, Sue Oldham ’90 and Jack Pendergrast, and welcomed new board members John Dennis III ’93, Clare Doyle, Melissa Jenkins and Susan Pilat.

Membership vice president Lindsay Germano ’01, serving with Clare Jackson, reported an increase in memberships over the prior year and announced an inaugural member appreciation event for donors at the patron level and above. Gala chairs Deborah and Bryan Domning ’75 invited guests to support and attend FoFL’s 40th annual gala March 27, 2020, honoring Pat and Ira Gruber. Gala proceeds will fund the Friends of Fondren Library University Librarian’s Endowment, founded by the Grubers in 2018.

We look forward to next year’s celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Friends of Fondren Library.

Mary Lowery
Executive Director, Friends of Fondren Library

Honoring Rice Authors, Editors, Composers and Artists

Have you authored a book, edited a journal, composed a major musical work or mounted a one-person art show in 2019? If so, we want to hear from you!

The Friends of Fondren Library would like to celebrate your achievements at our annual Rice authors, editors, composers and artists reception. This year’s event, chaired by Peter C. Caldwell, Samuel G. McCann Professor of History and chair of the history department, and Matthias Henze, the Isla Carroll and Percy E. Turner Professor of Hebrew Bible and Early Judaism and the founding director of Rice’s Program in Jewish Studies, will be held at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 30, 2020, in Fondren Library’s Kyle Morrow Room.

As an honoree, you will be recognized at the event and have an opportunity to display your work. The program also includes a panel discussion with a selected group of 2019 honorees, who will discuss their work in greater detail and participate in a question and answer session with the audience. Family and friends are welcome to join us in honoring your accomplishments.

To enter, you must be a member of the Rice faculty, staff, Friends of Fondren Library or alumni. Submit your name, title of your work, publisher name, and date of your publication or art show, to the Friends of Fondren Library at https://goo.gl/forms/thrTjODvfC[LepMxY2]. For more information, go to http://library.rice.edu/friends or call 713-348-5157.
Books That Shaped My World Series in 2019

Books That Shaped My World is a twice yearly event presented by Friends of Fondren Library in which notable members of the Rice community connect their experiences with the books that influenced them. The 2019 series featured Melissa Kean, centennial historian, and Sidney Burrus, the Maxfield and Oshman Professor Emeritus of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

For the spring presentation, Kean took the audience back to her first reading experiences, which laid the foundations for a life centered around books and reading. As a toddler, she surprised her father by reading billboards on the highway. Her favorite book from middle school, “Harriet the Spy,” prepared her for working in the archives with a respect for what she learns there about other people. She describes her current work as “reading other people’s mail.”

Keane began her relationship with Houston and Rice by taking a history course from John Boles to complete her master’s degree from Creighton University. As they say, the rest is history. She fell in love with the class and entered the Ph.D. program in the history of the American South. Boles encouraged her to write her dissertation on the desegregation of private universities in the South with post-World War II aspirations to national importance. These included Rice, Duke, Tulane, Emory and Vanderbilt. This work introduced her to the Woodson Research Center and led her to begin reading university histories, several of which are included in her book list for this presentation. Her research on these universities also resulted in the publication of “Desegregating Private Higher Education in the South” (Louisiana State University Press, 2008). As a postdoctoral student, she worked for Sidney Burrus ’57 on the history of engineering and science at Rice. She became Rice’s Centennial Historian in 2005 in preparation for the University’s 2012 Centennial Celebration. Her full list of books can be found at: https://library.rice.edu/2019BTSMW.

Burrus’ fall presentation described his boyhood in McKinney, Texas and his eagerness to venture out and explore. The recipient of three Rice degrees, a B.A., a B.S. and a master’s degree, he was commissioned in the Navy in 1958, married and taught at Navy Submarine School. Earning his Ph.D. at Stanford in 1965, he returned to Rice as a member of the faculty, also serving as master of Lovett College and dean of engineering before retiring in 2005.

Early exposure to the world beyond McKinney included Richard Halliburton’s “Complete Book of Marvels,” which Burrus said appealed to his deep curiosity and need to make sense of things. Novels broadened his sense of the complexities of life. Titles in the area of mathematics helped him understand its power to analyze information. While science uses mathematical models to understand and record natural phenomena, engineering employs mathematical systems and solutions to synthesize ideas and test theories about things that may not yet exist. He also found inspiration in books on paradigm shifts in the history of science, most specifically the Age of Enlightenment and other similar periods. Jonathan Lear’s “Radical Hope” taught him about the shifting way of life of the Crow tribe; Salman Rushdie’s novel, “Midnight’s Children,” shed light on the partitioning of India and Pakistan and the human stories that resulted from it. Burrus’s full list of books can be found at: https://library.rice.edu/2019BTSMW.

The spring presentation was chaired by Stephen Wallace and Jeff Ross. Ross and Nancy Shelby chaired the fall presentation. We appreciate their dedication to creating these enlightening events.

Mary Lowery
Executive Director, Friends of Fondren Library

Erratum: In the previous issue of News from Fondren, Debra Kolah’s name was inadvertently left off the list of photographers. The editor regrets the error.
Woodson Set of Limited Editions Now Complete

The Woodson Research Center is happy to announce that we now have a complete set of titles published for the Limited Editions Club founded in 1929 by George Macy. The book pictured is James Joyce’s “Ulysses,” with illustrations by Henri Matisse, published in 1935 by the Limited Editions Club. A custom clamshell book box with a built in cradle was created in 2019 to ease display and highlight the book’s beauty.