

# FONDREN

## Fondren Safely Monitors Building Traffic

In order to maintain social distancing and pandemic safety measures, Fondren has introduced a new piece of software called Waitz. Jeff Koffler, web/graphic designer, explained, “Waitz uses a custom code to detect wireless device signals and count the number of people in a zone. It takes some configuration at the beginning but becomes more accurate after a few days. It’s a little device that plugs into an outlet and communicates back to the website hub and app.”

### Features include:

Real-time occupancy data about Fondren’s popular, open study areas:

Basement DMC/Gov Docs

First-floor reading rooms

Second-floor mezzanine

Third-floor Brown Fine Arts

Sixth floor

Ability to track busy/less-busy times in the library

Mobile/web interface to view live data, available at [library.rice.edu](https://waitz.io/rice)

Secure and anonymous data

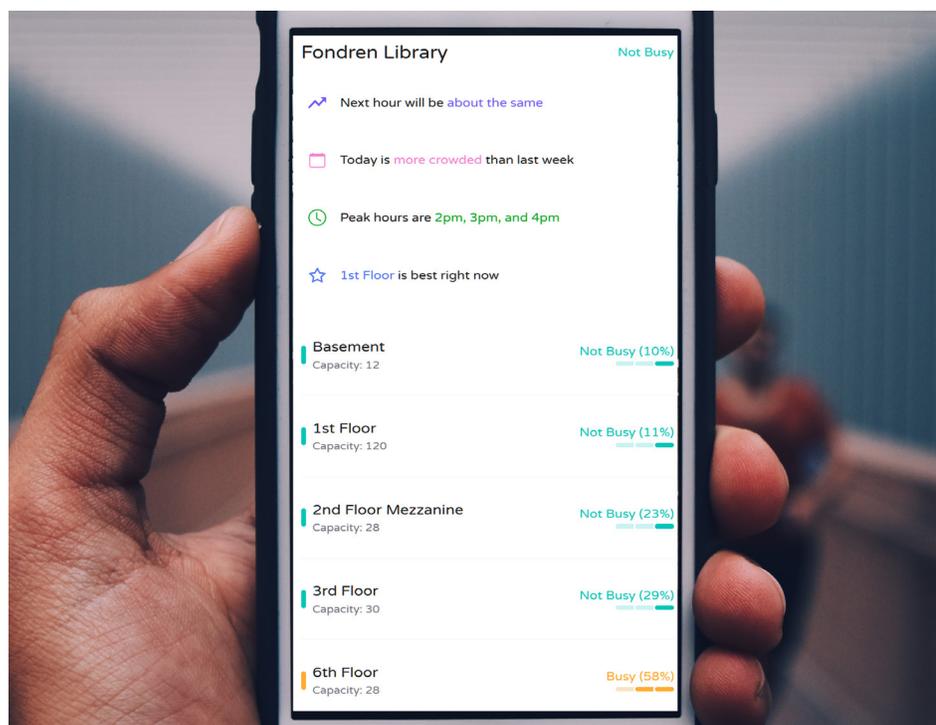


<https://waitz.io/rice>

Sara Lowman, vice provost and university librarian, shared, “The Waitz program will enable the library to track building occupancy in the most heavily used study areas of the library. Students have expressed concern about health and safety in light of the COVID-19 pandemic — this software will enable us to proactively address students’ concerns regarding their safety and social distancing standards.”

Debra Kolah

Head of User Experience



## CHECK IT OUT!

**Pg. 3** Interviews Preserve Rice Pandemic Experiences

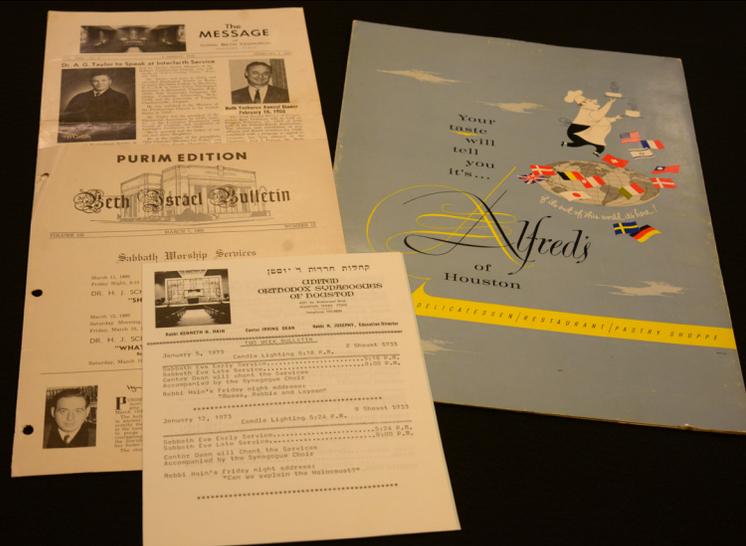
**Pg. 7** Course Reserves Move into Canvas

**Pg. 12** An Irish Family Settles in 19th Century Texas

**Pg. 14** Student Research Illuminates Local History of Slavery



RICE UNIVERSITY  
Fondren Library



## Expanding Histories: Shining a Light on Underserved Communities

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced staff at Fondren Library to work remotely last spring, the team at the Woodson Research Center (WRC) increased its focus on digital projects. In addition to processing digitized materials for Fondren's Institutional Repository (IR) at <https://scholarship.rice.edu>, WRC staff were able to accelerate work on a two-year grant funded Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) project, increasing the number of digitized materials available to the public online. The materials being digitized as part of the CLIR grant project are being made available online through the Portal to Texas History at <https://texashistory.unt.edu/> at the University of North Texas (UNT). This ongoing project focuses on communities commonly underserved in archival repositories. WRC has been processing materials from its Houston Jewish History Archive (HJHA) for both online repositories, selecting materials with broad research value such as newsletters and bulletins, scrapbooks and oral histories.

Included in one of HJHA's largest collections, Congregation Beth Yeshurun records (MS 722) are bound volumes of the congregation's newsletter, *The Message* (<https://bit.ly/3uLml1K>), spanning from 1946 to 2014. The entire run has been sent to UNT and is gradually being added to the portal. Newsletters and bulletins from the United Orthodox Synagogues (UOS) records (MS 712) and the Congregation Beth Israel collection (MS 711) are also in process. Just under 300 newsletters, Baytown Jewish Community News from the Congregation K'nesseth Israel records (MS 924), are available in Fondren's IR (<https://bit.ly/3g6bxwq>). These materials provide a record of religious services, holy days, bar/bat mitzvahs, births, deaths and more.

Thanks to the work of Danielle Kessler '21, HJHA's digitization intern, WRC had many scrapbooks scanned and ready to process for the IR when the pandemic hit. The largest number, currently 15, came from the Congregation Beth Yeshurun records. Also available or in progress are scrapbooks from the Jewish Community Center of Houston records (MS 713) and the Houston Hadassah collection (MS 775), as well as youth organizations' scrapbooks from Houston Hillel (MS 732), Sigma Alpha Rho (MS 737) and Congregation Adath Emeth's National Council of Synagogue Youth – Rambam Chapter from the UOS records.

Prior to 2020, only a handful of HJHA oral history interviews had been conducted. HJHA staff have used Zoom to allow people in quarantine the chance to tell their stories. We now have more than two dozen oral histories available in the IR or in the editing process, with more to come, including interviews with rabbis, business leaders and other community members.

Working from home allowed WRC staff time to increase the amount of digital materials available to researchers online at the exact moment when they were needed most with COVID-19 restrictions limiting access to materials. We look forward to making more collections available in the coming year.

Traci Patterson  
Archivist and Special Collections Librarian

## Students Document the COVID-19 Pandemic Experience Through Interviews

Rice University student Hannah Towbin '21 (Martel College) has spearheaded a student-led COVID-19 oral history project being archived at the Woodson Research Center (WRC), with support from the Humanities Research Center. Towbin, along with fellow students Sally Yan '22 (McMurtry College) and Abrar Mamun '23 (Jones College), have conducted 20 interviews in spring 2021 with students, faculty and staff.

Towbin stated, "For me, this project is so valuable because we have the opportunity to capture the human experience throughout this pandemic. Down the line, we'll have well-documented information about the biology of the virus, the population dynamics and the statistics of the disease, all of which can help future researchers and scientists combat the next pandemic. But what about the other aspects of the pandemic? What about the social, cultural, and financial considerations? The goal of this project was always to preserve the emotional memories of those who lived during this time, and it's my goal that this kind of information, coupled with biological data, can be used to illustrate a bigger, more accurate picture of how the pandemic shaped each and every one of us."

Additionally, Yan noted how little is recorded about Rice's experience of the 1918 influenza pandemic and hoped that our experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic would not be similarly lost. "I think that the fact that we're students talking mostly to other students has allowed the interviews to be casual and conversational and an opportunity for participants to truly talk about anything on their minds regarding the pandemic. It's been really eye-opening for me to see how varied students' and professors' experiences of the pandemic are and what they want to focus on in their reflections on the pandemic."

WRC is grateful for these contributions to the archives. See the interviews and other collected journals, photographs and artworks related to the COVID-19 pandemic at <https://covid-19-reflections.rice.edu/interviews-2021>.

Amanda Focke  
Head, Woodson Research Center



Sally Yan interviewing Annelise Goldman.



**PROJECT  
PLEASANTVILLE**

## ***Celebrating Pleasantville Through Stories***

The Pleasantville community, started in 1948, became a home for African Americans in Houston. Located inside the I-610 loop on the east side of the city, the neighborhood grew from a few homesteads to a functioning community with streetlights, the most active voting precinct in Houston and a thriving civic club, all in the span of a decade.

In 2019, Zoë Wool, former Rice assistant professor in the anthropology department, in conjunction with Lacy Johnson, assistant professor of creative writing and the founder of the Houston Flood Museum, set out to document natural and human made disasters that had befallen Pleasantville, such as flooding from Hurricane Carla (1961) and 1995 chemical storage warehouse fires. They first interviewed Geneva Sharp, an early Pleasantville resident and co-author of “Millennium Year 2000 A.D. and 50th Year-End Celebration of Pleasantville’s Community Growth,” and her son, Cleophus Sharp.

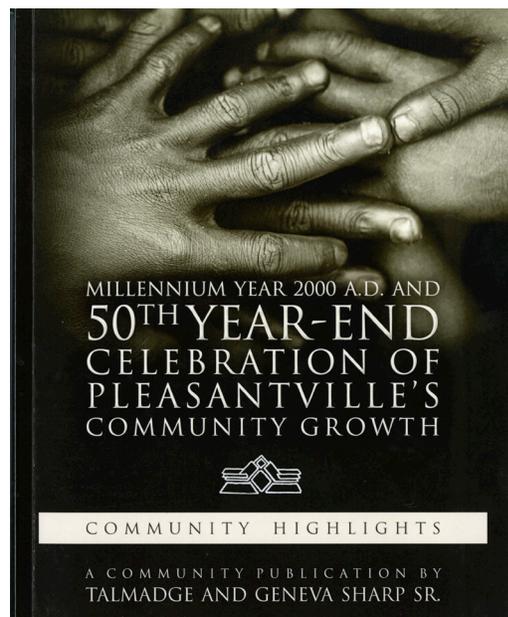
After that interview, Wool and Johnson were convinced that the community deserved a wide-ranging oral history project in addition to an interactive timeline soon to be released. While environmental racism would be discussed in the oral histories, the questions would also center on capturing the history of the community and the members who formed it. During fall 2020, Cleophus Sharp and Pleasantville community member Bridgette Murray began reaching out to current and former residents to gauge their interest in telling their stories. Wool and Johnson assembled a team of interviewers that included Sharp, Murray, Portia Hopkins (CLIR/DLF postdoctoral research associate in data curation for African American studies), Norie Guthrie of the Woodson Research Center and students from Lacy Johnson’s class. This team used Sharp and Murray’s list to conduct oral histories primarily via Zoom in video and audio formats.

The first of these oral histories went online in late March 2021. They can be found at <http://scholarship.rice.edu>, using the keyword “Pleasantville.” We hope that Houston and the larger community will use this opportunity to learn more about this vibrant neighborhood.

*Norie Guthrie*  
Archivist and Special Collections Librarian



Geneva Sharp



## Dark Archive Provides Backup Plan for Journal Content

Until very recently, the preservation of the scholarly record has focused on physical materials. As collections become digital and alternate publishing methods arise, the task has become more complex and challenging. Physical materials, such as academic journals, are preserved largely through redundancy. Multiple copies are delivered to numerous libraries in various geographic locations. By comparison, electronic resources typically exist as one copy delivered through one publisher to many libraries.

Fondren Library is working with the library and publishing community to help solve these problems through the CLOCKSS (Controlled Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe) network. An offshoot of LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe), CLOCKSS preserves online scholarly content. The network preserves 43 million journal articles, over 25,000 serial titles and 240,000 book titles.

While there are other preservation systems available, CLOCKSS is a unique partnership between libraries and publishers using proven open-source technology. Organizationally the network is set up to protect against technological, economic, environmental and political failure and operates 12 geographically dispersed archival nodes at leading academic institutions worldwide, including one at Rice University. More than 300 libraries and 300 publishers support CLOCKSS, and the 23-member board of directors is equally balanced between both groups.

The system works on a series of servers that do preservation and ingestion. Publishers provide access to scholarly content and servers in the CLOCKSS network ingest the material. The LOCKSS technology guards against threats such as corruption and deletion by communicating information to repair, restore and validate data. If the content in one CLOCKSS server becomes corrupted or is deleted, it receives repair and restoration information from other CLOCKSS servers. When content stored in the archive is withdrawn from public view, usually by a publisher and known as a trigger event, the CLOCKSS board can decide to restore the content. In such a case, the content gets migrated to the newest format, copied to a publicly available server and made freely available. Since the inception of the network in 2006, there have been 64 journals with 13,000 articles triggered and restored to view through CLOCKSS.

The work of preserving the scholarly record is continuous. A recent study published in the *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology* noted that 174 open access journals disappeared from the web between 2000–2019. Collaborative efforts, like CLOCKSS, offer some of our best chances to preserve these vital digital resources.

*Denis Galvin*  
Director, IT



**CLOCKSS**

## Zotero File Syncing Storage Now Unlimited

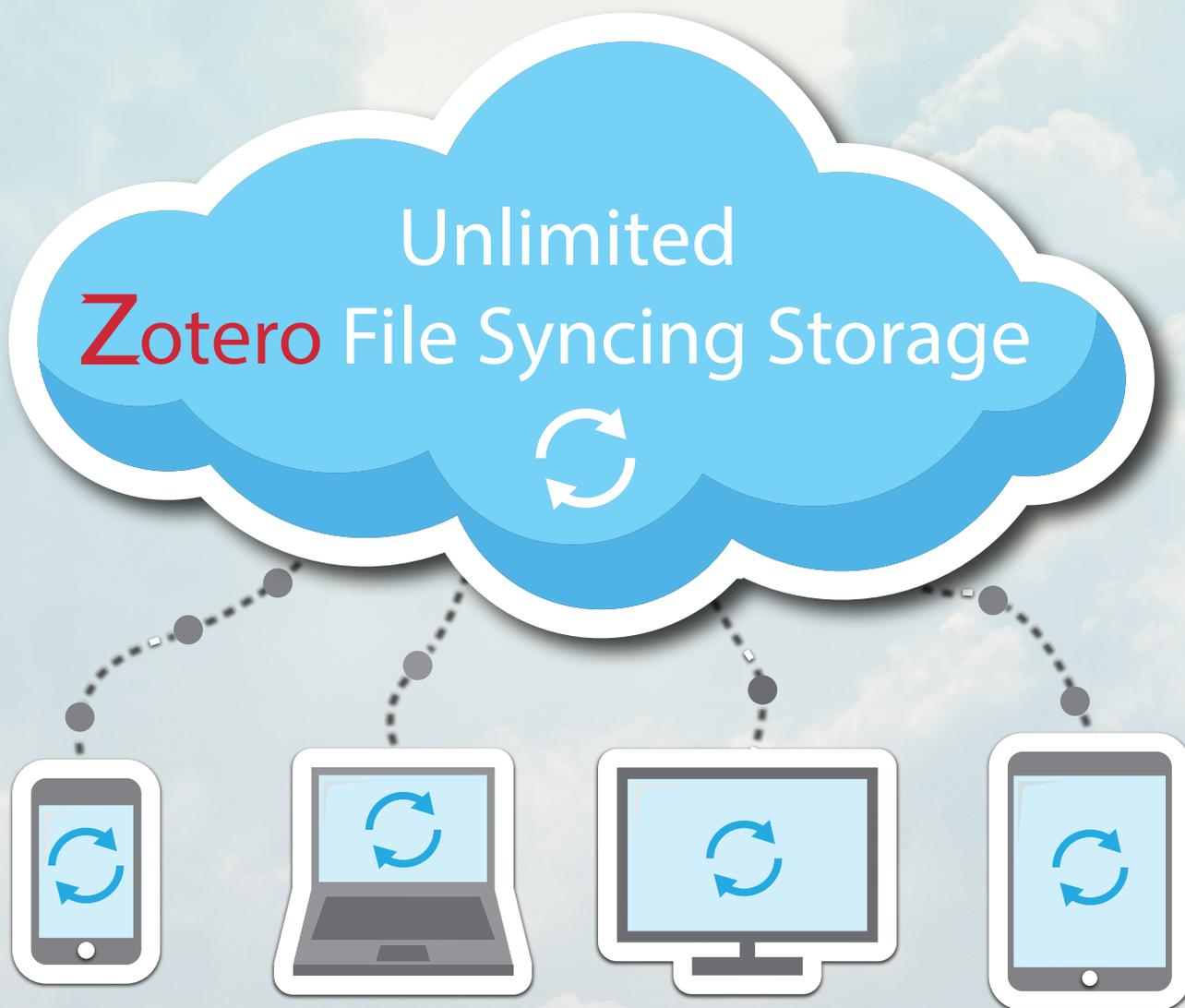
Zotero is a free citation management tool that helps collect, organize, cite and share bibliographic references. It is a stand-alone application with connectors available to Firefox, Chrome and Safari browsers. While Zotero is free, the free version provides only 300 MB of file syncing storage per account.

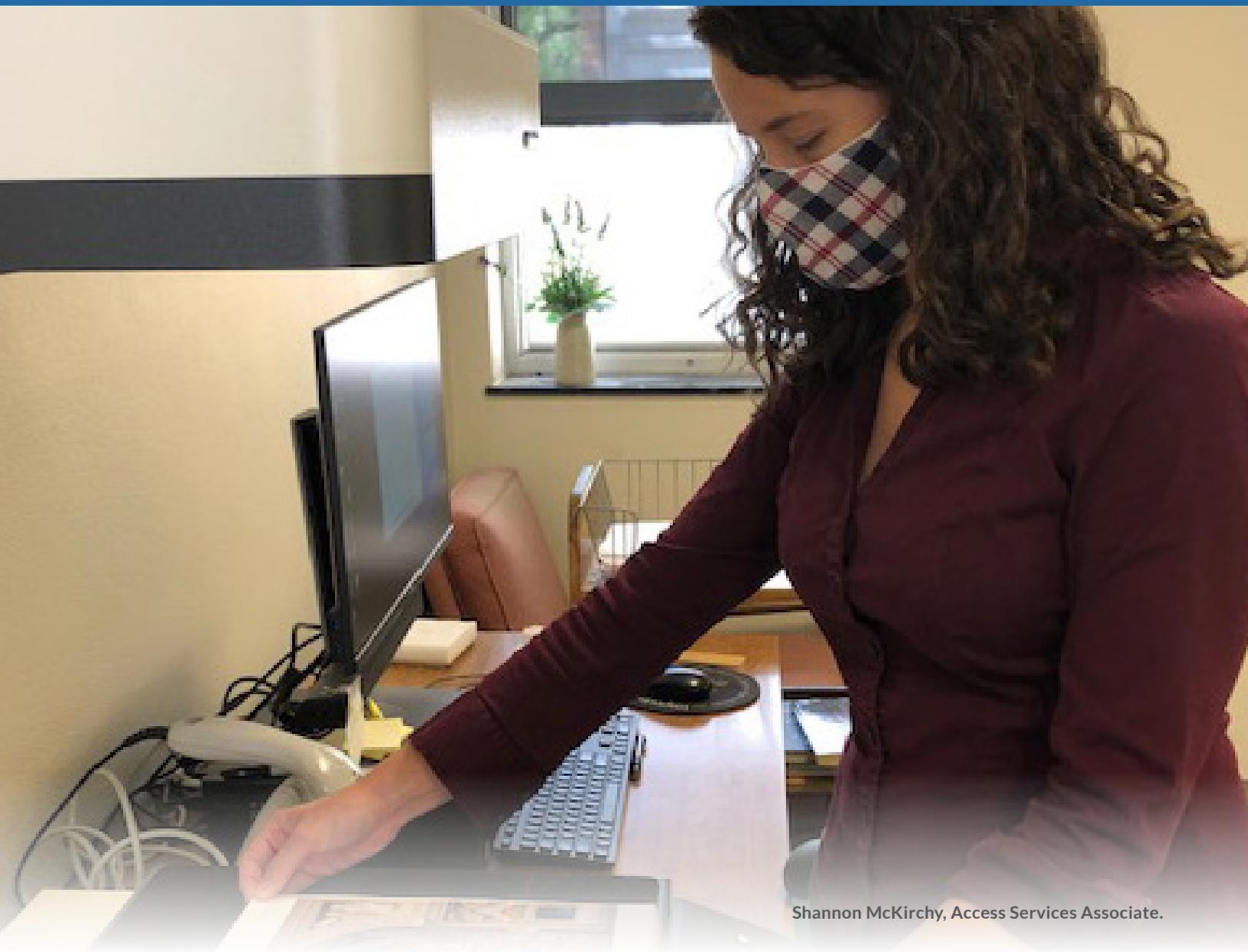
Fondren Library has been supporting Zotero since 2006, with many users. A survey of graduate students in spring 2019 was followed by a request that Rice offer more Zotero storage, a request also supported by some faculty. Sara Lowman, vice provost and university librarian, authorized subscribing to the Zotero institution plan with unlimited storage, effective April 2020.

To use Rice's institutional file storage with Zotero, users must sign up for a Zotero account using their Rice email addresses or add their Rice addresses to their existing accounts. Rice terms of services may be found at <https://library.rice.edu/zotero-TOS>.

Fondren's Digital Media Commons (DMC) provides Zotero support. The DMC short course registration page and online appointment request form (for one-on-one virtual consultations) may be found at <https://library.rice.edu/dmc>.

*Jane Zhao*  
Director, Digital Media Commons





Shannon McKirchy, Access Services Associate.

## Course Reserves Now Located in Canvas

In March 2020, libraries secured their buildings and waited to see what came next. By April, Fondren's Access Services was stealthily planning for a mid-May soft return to work and, several weeks later, a curbside pickup arrangement for circulating library materials to users.

During this time, libraries shared ideas about promoting free resources and controlled digital lending and also conducted online discussions on how to handle course reserves for the fall semester. Once again, Fondren was ahead of the curve, considering an add-on system to the new Ex Libris library platform to turn physical reserves into a digital, contact-free service. In June 2020, the team discussed with library IT using Ex Libris' Leganto and in July, Fondren became the 100th customer to adopt this course reserves platform. An implementation team spent four weeks to learn the system and put it into action for the fall semester. Leganto allows instructors to ask that materials

be scanned, digitized and uploaded to their Canvas course pages via a new Resource List module. Additionally, course reserve items can link to e-resources, PDFs, image and sound files, and more.

Debra Kolah, Fondren's head of user experience, is leading the team, testing the usability of the tool this spring and summer so that user feedback can inform the workflow process and training of stakeholders in fall 2021. Kolah said, "It is important to understand how faculty and staff use course reserves in their classes and what features are important to students in a tool like this. Additionally, Leganto has the potential to provide greater equity in accessing course readings."

*Sue Garrison*  
Access Services Manager

## Long-time Art and Architecture Librarian Retires

Art and architecture librarian Jet Prendeville retired March 5 after 49 years of dedicated service to Rice. She leaves a collection shaped by years of care and expertise as well as many colleagues and friends she has cared for in the same way.

Prendeville earned her bachelor's degree in art history from Memphis State University. Then travelling to Pavia, Italy, on a Fulbright Fellowship, she studied the frescoes of Santa Maria di Castelseprio. Next obtaining a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Michigan, Prendeville was working at the Memphis Public Library when librarianship called to her, resulting in her Master of Library Science degree from the University of Illinois. Several years after she arrived at Rice, planning began for the new Brown Fine Arts Library on Fondren's third floor, formally dedicated in October 1986. Prendeville spent innumerable hours with music librarian Ellen Burns, planning for the new circulation desk, compiling requirements for shelving and all the other information necessary to house the library's art, architecture, classical archeology and music collections. Until 2006, the Brown operated as a special library with its own dedicated staff and team of student assistants, who often came from Rice's fine and performing arts programs and transformed it into a vibrant community space. Although the Brown Library no longer has a circulation desk, its reading room remains a beautiful place to study.

The Fondren Library fine arts collection shines because of four decades of Prendeville's hard work and vast knowledge. She acquired specialized catalogs such as catalogues raisonnés of individual artists and museum collection catalogs. She also created a significant collection of facsimiles of medieval illuminated manuscripts, adding the most important manuscripts of each major stylistic period from the British Isles, France and Germany. Over time the scope of the collection expanded to include selected Arabic and Hebrew manuscripts and items from late antiquity to the 16th century. Her work culminated in the 2016 Vagantes Conference on Medieval Studies, hosted by art history doctoral students with an exhibition in Fondren Library. Starting in 2005, Prendeville also worked with the visual arts department to develop a singular collection of livres d'artistes, limited edition handmade books which combine original prints with text and expose students to the works of major artists without the constraints of a museum. Today Prendeville regards this as her proudest accomplishment at Rice. Her expertise lives on in online guides to art and architecture topics at [https://libguides.rice.edu/prf.php?account\\_id=8903](https://libguides.rice.edu/prf.php?account_id=8903). In 2015, Prendeville was awarded the Fondren Library Staff Shapiro Award for exemplary service to the university community.

Prendeville's Fondren colleagues will miss her knowledge and leadership, and so much more. An experienced bird-watcher, she has served as a resource for anyone who is trying to identify a bird they saw in their backyard. Prendeville's watercolor paintings have appeared in Fondren staff talent exhibitions. Her deviled eggs are legendary and will be wistfully recalled by anyone fortunate enough to have tasted one at a staff party before they ran out.

*Mary Brower  
Music Librarian/Reference Coordinator*



## Business Information Center Librarian Retires

Having known Peggy Shaw since we were both members of various library associations in the 1980s, I would describe her as a thoroughly professional librarian. Since coming to work with her at Jones Graduate School of Business, I've always been impressed by her knowledge of all things library and her role as an instructor in research for Jones School students and staff. I recently interviewed her over the phone about working at Rice and her retirement in January.

E: What's your most memorable time at the Jones School?

P: The Economic Summit in 1990. Starting in January, individuals toured the Business Information Center (BIC) in Herring Hall in preparation for the Summit. Construction started right after graduation and involved several changes in plans. The Secret Service tried to place restrictions on the collection and operation of the BIC. The conference table being placed in the BIC was so large that the bookshelves and the books were removed by a crew of me, my assistant Virginia, a student worker and Rice F&E.

E: What was the hardest part of your job as BIC director? Your favorite or easiest part?

P: I didn't mind dealing with vendors but hated paying invoices. My favorite was working with faculty and students assisting with their research. Collection development was the easiest part of the job.

E: Can you say something about all the BIC moves over the years?

P: In the current move, the BIC is swapping space with the dean's suite, moving across the hall but staying on the second floor of the Jones School. The space will be smaller so some of the collection will be moved offsite to the Library Service Center and, of course, many resources are now online. Before this, it's been seven years since we moved the fourth-floor materials to the second floor of McNair Hall to join the rest of the collection. (Author's note: Prior to 2014, the BIC moved from Herring Hall to McNair Hall and then its third-floor collections were moved to the fourth floor.)

We also discussed working remotely and how Rice and Dean Rodriguez have been so caring about their people. Peggy was also excited about the new undergraduate business major.

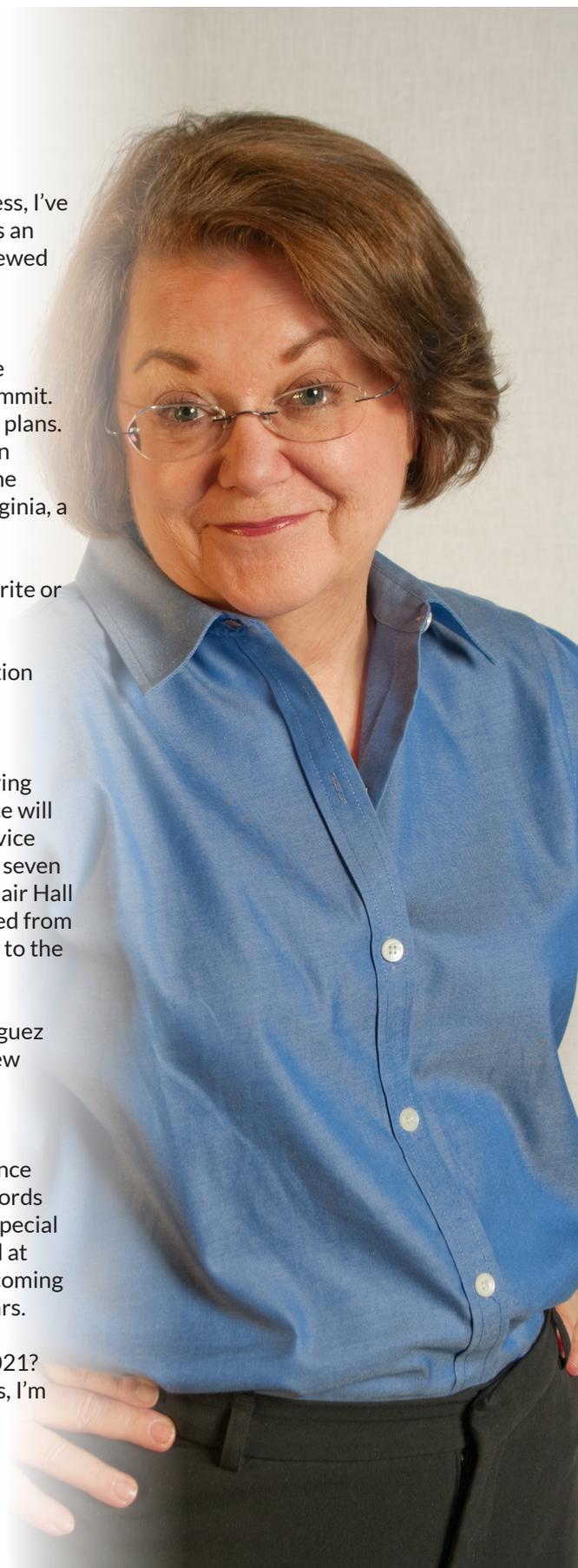
E: A little university and job history, please?

P: I'm a New Orleans native and an LSU grad with a Master's of Library Science from the University of North Texas. I had a summer job searching public records for a private investigator in New Orleans. After that, I wanted to work in a special library. I taught high school before getting my master's degree, then worked at Houston Public Library and KPMG International (a special library!) before coming to Rice. Working in reference, research and teaching kept me at Rice 34 years.

E: How was 2020 for you while preparing for retirement in early 2021?

P: It went by quickly. It was time to retire. Now with COVID-19 vaccinations, I'm ready to get back to normal.

*Elise McCutchen  
Senior Library Associate  
Business Information Center  
Jones School of Business*



## Fondren Supports Open Educational Resources

Open Educational Resources (OER) are teaching and learning resources licensed so that anyone may freely use and re-purpose them. In addition to lowering student course material costs, OER allow instructors to customize content for their courses. Available OER include textbooks, syllabi, lectures, learning activities, assignments, and tests or quizzes.

Many academic libraries have become campus leaders in OER adoption. Promoting OER aligns with existing library expertise, programs and values, including collection development, open access, and instruction and classroom support. Accordingly, library OER programs also often align with an institution's mission or strategic plan. Fondren's current strategic plan includes promoting OER to further the university's goal to expand access, diversity and inclusiveness.

Currently, Fondren supports the use of OER by providing several online guides for finding, using and creating OER (e.g. <https://libguides.rice.edu/OER>). Some library-owned content is also available for use as OER. Fondren staff actively plan to expand the library's OER support; areas of exploration include determining current OER use on campus and identifying potential collaboration opportunities.

*Shannon Kipphut-Smith*  
Scholarly Communications Liaison



OPEN EDUCATIONAL  
RESOURCES





## Library Gets Creative on Sprinkle Days

To continue keeping students and the campus safe during the pandemic, Rice implemented five individual “sprinkle days” throughout the spring semester in lieu of the usual weeklong spring break. On sprinkle days there were no scheduled classes and Fondren reached out to students with some creative, socially distanced activities. Giveaways included reusable coffee cups in February and snack bags in March. In April, Fondren partnered with the Rec Center to offer a stretch class. Raiya Myren '23 from the user experience office also created a Study Break Resources libguide (<https://libguides.rice.edu/studybreak>), with links to podcasts, relaxing videos and virtual puzzles.

Fondren staff members look forward to interacting with students more directly in the fall semester.

*Jeanette Sewell*  
Database & Metadata Management Coordinator



## The Campbell Family From Donegal to Texas

The Woodson Research Center's Campbell Papers (MS 329) tell the story of an Irish family fighting to survive the famine years of the mid-1800s and save enough money to join a brother in Texas. John Campbell (1811-1891) was born in Drimcoe, Inver parish, County Donegal, Ireland, and emigrated around 1830, possibly spending time in the Caribbean; then New York City; meeting Anson Jones, the last president of the Republic of Texas and architect of its annexation to the United States, and receiving his mail through him.

Campbell settled in Guadalupe County and went on to become successful in construction and raising livestock. Letters from family members in Ireland describe the dire circumstances there at the time. Several Campbell family members died in 1847 alone. Landlords raised their rents even as crops failed, evicting those who were unable to pay. An able-bodied man could receive relief in the form of the workhouse, but only upon forfeiting any land over a quarter of an acre. Bad times did not always bring the family together. One brother harvested the oats on another's land and sold them himself. Family dynamics changed upon one brother's second marriage. Another brother and sister were looked upon as lazy and unintelligent. One brother claimed he would emigrate on a different ship than the rest of the family group because he so disliked a sister-in-law.

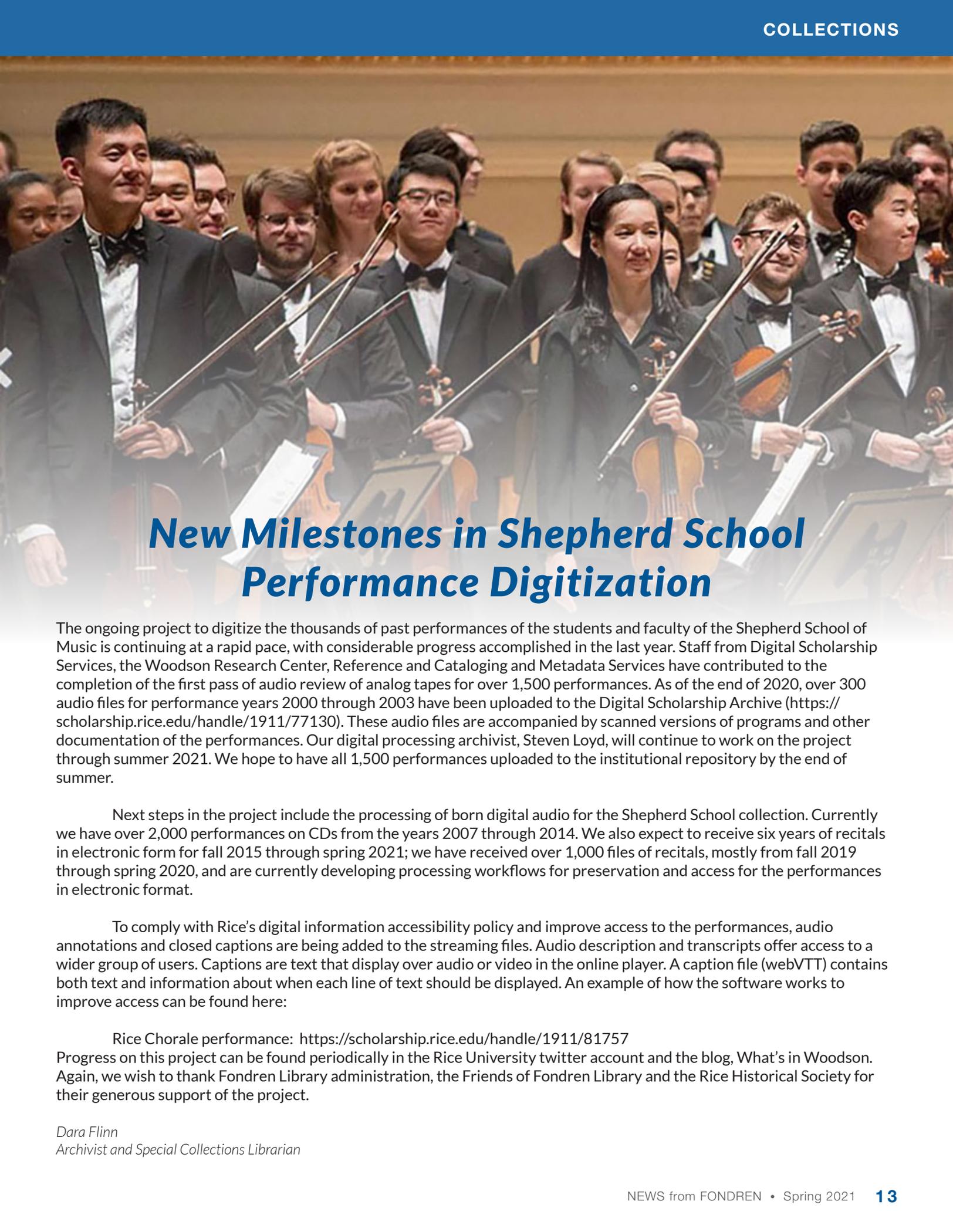


Portrait of John Campbell and Canzada Faver Campbell hanging in Campbell Cabin in Seguin, shared on Ancestry.com by Lisa Caraway on March 8, 2013.

In every letter there are pleas for financial help from John for passage and worried questions about what the new land was like. According to John in one letter of 1850, "a man that farms it here can make from 2 to 4 pounds dollars a yare and seport a famly be sides...and that is more thane a farmer can do in Irland for the poore farmere is a poore slave to the nobility in poore deprest irland." The status of the Irish is referred to as slavery in several letters, as they had so little control over their own lives. In Toronto, Canada, while studying for the priesthood, brother Neal writes of attending an antislavery lecture by an Irish speaker, indignant that he fails to call attention with the same vigor to the plight of his countrymen. The Campbells seem to have taken limited advantage of the opportunities for free labor before emancipation; John appears with one enslaved man on the 1850 census slave schedule, and not at all on the 1860 slave schedule.

Eventually several Campbell siblings emigrated. Neal eventually settled in New York City. Brothers Pat, Peter and Thomas arrived in 1851 at the port of New Orleans with their wives and numerous children, settling in San Antonio and Seguin, where the original cabin built by John still stands.

Mary Brower  
Music Librarian/Reference Coordinator



## ***New Milestones in Shepherd School Performance Digitization***

The ongoing project to digitize the thousands of past performances of the students and faculty of the Shepherd School of Music is continuing at a rapid pace, with considerable progress accomplished in the last year. Staff from Digital Scholarship Services, the Woodson Research Center, Reference and Cataloging and Metadata Services have contributed to the completion of the first pass of audio review of analog tapes for over 1,500 performances. As of the end of 2020, over 300 audio files for performance years 2000 through 2003 have been uploaded to the Digital Scholarship Archive (<https://scholarship.rice.edu/handle/1911/77130>). These audio files are accompanied by scanned versions of programs and other documentation of the performances. Our digital processing archivist, Steven Loyd, will continue to work on the project through summer 2021. We hope to have all 1,500 performances uploaded to the institutional repository by the end of summer.

Next steps in the project include the processing of born digital audio for the Shepherd School collection. Currently we have over 2,000 performances on CDs from the years 2007 through 2014. We also expect to receive six years of recitals in electronic form for fall 2015 through spring 2021; we have received over 1,000 files of recitals, mostly from fall 2019 through spring 2020, and are currently developing processing workflows for preservation and access for the performances in electronic format.

To comply with Rice's digital information accessibility policy and improve access to the performances, audio annotations and closed captions are being added to the streaming files. Audio description and transcripts offer access to a wider group of users. Captions are text that display over audio or video in the online player. A caption file (webVTT) contains both text and information about when each line of text should be displayed. An example of how the software works to improve access can be found here:

Rice Chorale performance: <https://scholarship.rice.edu/handle/1911/81757>

Progress on this project can be found periodically in the Rice University twitter account and the blog, What's in Woodson. Again, we wish to thank Fondren Library administration, the Friends of Fondren Library and the Rice Historical Society for their generous support of the project.

*Dara Flinn*  
*Archivist and Special Collections Librarian*



L to R: Katelyn Landry and Virginia Gonzalez

## Archival Internship on Slavery in Southeast Texas

During the fall 2020 semester, Rice undergraduate students, Virginia Gonzalez '22 and Katelyn Landry '22, worked as part of a 12-week internship to explore the history of slavery and plantation life in the Greater Houston area. The internship program was part of a partnership between Rice University and the Texas Historical Commission. Under the supervision of Professor Molly Morgan in the Department of Anthropology and archivists Amanda Focke and Rebecca Russell of Woodson Research Center (WRC), Gonzalez and Landry examined plantation and slavery primary sources from the 19th century. Their research helped identify potential resources available in Greater Houston-area repositories and resulted in an annotated bibliography and suggestions for future research and digitization.

Conducting archival research during a pandemic added an extra challenge for Gonzalez and Landry. Their original plan involved in-person research visits to area repositories in Harris, Fort Bend and Brazoria Counties. Visiting archival repositories in person was an important aspect of their research, as they wanted to identify materials not available online and recommend them for digitization. Several repositories on their list were closed due to COVID-19 restrictions, but they were able to conduct research at WRC, the Galveston and Texas History Center at the Rosenberg Library in Galveston and the Brazoria County Historical Museum in Angleton. They pored over newspapers, court documents, bills of sale and land deeds exploring little known facets of slavery.

By the end of the semester, Gonzalez and Landry had created an annotated bibliography with information pertaining to more than 200 archival materials, secondary sources and published works that were helpful to their research and had recommended 41 items for digitization. Their research helped uncover slavery related materials in WRC and prioritize items in the collection for digitization. Their work was highlighted in a recent symposium, "Archaeology, Archival Research and Public History Interpretation: Recent Student Research at Varner-Hogg and Levi Jordan Plantations," and complements the ongoing work of the Rice University Task Force on Slavery, Segregation and Racial Injustice.

*Rebecca Russell  
Archivist and Special Collections Librarian*

## Honoring Rice Authors, Editors, Composers and Artists

Friends of Fondren Library hosts the only universitywide annual event honoring Rice's authors, editors, composers and artists who published works in a given year. On Jan. 27, 2021, Peter C. Caldwell, the Samuel G. McCann Professor of History, and Matthias Henze, the Isla Carroll and Percy E. Turner Professor of Biblical Studies, co-hosted the virtual event honoring those who published in 2020. They redesigned the event to highlight each honoree's work and capture the attention of our virtual audience members with the evening's discussion, "Building Houston: Society and Architecture."

Caldwell read the name of each honoree while photographs of their publication scrolled across the screen, noting the impressive number of publications this year despite the pandemic's challenges. Henze also commented on the significant positive influence of publications and artistic expressions in this difficult year. Henze moderated the discussion with the evening's panelists: Stephen Klineberg, the founding director of the Kinder Institute for Urban Research and professor emeritus of sociology, and

Stephen Fox, an architectural historian and lecturer at the Rice School of Architecture.

In their books, Klineberg and Fox create a portrait of Houston as a vibrant city that succeeds because of, rather than in spite of, its quirks and foibles. In "Prophetic City: Houston on the Cusp of a Changing America," Klineberg uses quantitative and qualitative data from the first 38 years of the Kinder Houston Area Survey to paint a rich picture of the changing demographics and beliefs of the residents of Houston, the most racially diverse city in America and a harbinger of the United States' demographic make up by 2050. He discussed Houston's challenges across the years of the survey and noted that Houston needs to address three main areas in its efforts to thrive in coming years: providing a high-quality education for all its children, continuing to enhance the region's quality of life, and embracing the changing diversity of its population.

Fox's book, "Making Houston Modern: The Life and Architecture of Howard Barnstone" (2020), with Barrie

Scardino Bradley and Michelangelo Sabatino, focuses on the life and work of Howard Barnstone and the many ways his work made a mark on 20th-century Houston. Barnstone was a prominent modern architect in the 1950s and beyond, with a charming, provocative personality, arriving in Houston as the result of an untimely car breakdown in 1948. He was hired by the newly formed architecture program at the University of Houston and spent the remainder of his life here, contributing greatly to the vibrancy of Houston's architecture. Barnstone loved many of the things that others love to hate about Houston: the heat, the air-conditioning and the lack of zoning. In his later years, he worked closely with John and Dominique de Menil, including his design of the Rice Museum (Art Barn) and the Media Center, which was funded by the de Menils. Their work together transformed aspects of Houston's art and culture scene by creating incubator spaces for artists, photographers and filmmakers.

To watch the recorded event, please visit <https://library.rice.edu/friends/past-events>. To nominate honorees for the 2022 event, please email their contact information and publication names to [fofl@rice.edu](mailto:fofl@rice.edu).

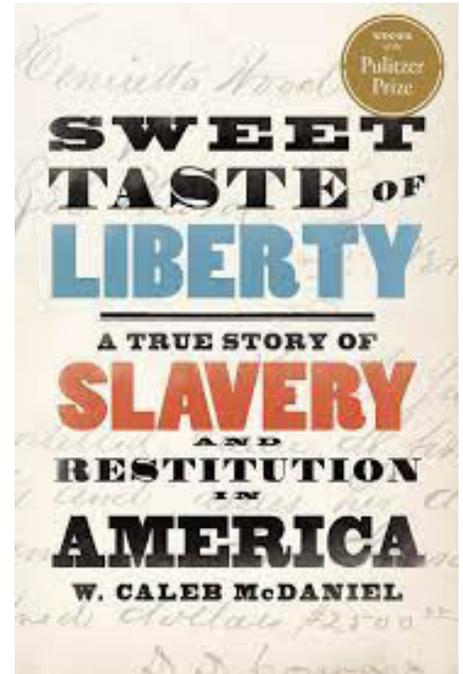
Mary Lowery  
Executive Director, Friends of Fondren  
Library



Clockwise from top L: Matthias Henze, Stephen Fox, Peter C. Caldwell, Stephen Klineberg.



W. Caleb McDaniel



## Books That Shaped My World

When Caleb McDaniel won the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for history for his book, “Sweet Taste of Liberty,” Friends of Fondren Library (FoFL) event chairs Nancy Shelby, Bess Wareing and Liz Crowell knew that his writing process and the books that shape his experiences would greatly interest Friends members. For a special Books That Shaped My World event Feb. 4, 2021, FoFL collaborated with the Baker Institute for Public Policy. Baker Institute’s academic affairs director Allen J. Matusow moderated the discussion.

Both McDaniel and Matusow serve on Rice University’s Task Force on Slavery, Segregation and Racial Injustice ([taskforce.rice.edu](https://taskforce.rice.edu)), with McDaniel as co-chair.

Noting the world-shaping impact on McDaniel of writing the Pulitzer prize-winning book, Matusow commended it as the story of one life which both illuminates the character of slavery as an institution and resonates with current events including the Black Lives Matter movement.

“Sweet Taste of Liberty: A True Story of Slavery and Restitution in America” chronicles the story of Henrietta Wood, an enslaved woman who sought and won monetary damages in court against those who enslaved her. She was born into slavery, freed, then kidnapped by Zebulon Ward and enslaved again. After the Civil War, she won her freedom a second time and filed suit against Ward. Her excellent

memory for detail and her persistence in telling her story helped her prevail in court, receiving the largest financial settlement at the time for a case of this kind.

McDaniel began researching the book in 2014, planning to write about the phenomenon of Confederate planters who fled from southern states to Texas during the Civil War and the experiences of the enslaved people who were brought to Texas as a result. In an 1879 newspaper, he read an article about Wood that included her experience coming to Texas from Natchez, Mississippi, during the Civil War. Due to Ward’s unusual first name, searching digital archives was fruitful and bolstered McDaniel’s interest in the story, but a year of research was required to confirm there was enough information to support a book about her life. McDaniel was able to trace Wood’s life from her birth in Mississippi to her freedom in Ohio; re-enslavement in Kentucky, Mississippi and Texas; and her return to Ohio as a free woman.

McDaniel noted that the financial settlement had a profound impact on the life of Wood’s son, Arthur Simms. With these funds, \$2,500 or about \$65,000 in today’s dollars, Wood was able to pay for Simms’ law school education and purchase a home for him in Chicago, two means of creating generational wealth. Wood’s determination to seek justice changed the trajectory for her son and his descendants.

We invite you to watch this and other Fondren event videos at <https://library.rice.edu/friends/past-events>.

Mary Lowery  
Executive Director, Friends of Fondren Library

# The Pandemic Pivot

For 39 consecutive years, Friends of Fondren Library (FoFL) hosted an annual spring event to provide financial support for the library. In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered the gala, honoring Pat and Ira Gruber, and plans were made to reschedule for 2021. When that event was also rescheduled to 2022, the members of the FoFL Gala Committee decided that a pivot was in order.

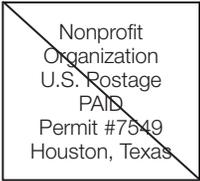
Gala committee chairs Deborah and Bryan Domning and committee members went well beyond their one-year commitments to launch the Gala Legacy Campaign, a fundraising effort to bridge the gap between gala events and honor all of the generous donors and volunteers who have managed and supported the FoFL Gala since 1980. To reflect the well-loved Monte Carlo theme of the Saturday Night events of the 1980s, donors to the campaign will receive a casino-themed party favor by mail.

Funds raised will provide support to Fondren Library where it is most needed. Prior gala proceeds have funded enhancements to the library's collection; improvements to the physical space, including renovations and furnishing; and three endowments that will support the library for years to come.

To learn more about the Gala Legacy Campaign, please visit <http://riceconnect.rice.edu/fofl> or call the FoFL office at 713-348-5157. Mark your calendars now for the 2022 FoFL Gala honoring Pat and Ira Gruber to be held March 25, 2022.

Mary Lowery  
Executive Director, Friends of Fondren Library





## NEWS from FONDREN

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Tony Martino and his wife, Matilda, standing in front of a house with flowers. Martino served as Rice's main gardener starting in 1916. Find out more about him in this brief Centennial Series video, "The Man Who Left His Green Thumbprint on the Rice Campus," at <https://bit.ly/3h7Mj1d>.

Link to picture:

<https://scholarship.rice.edu/handle/1911/71627>

