As the completion of the Jefferson Davis Papers and her career at Rice approach, I sat with current editor Lynda Crist to learn about the library’s role in her work.

**Generally, what is the role of library resources in a project like the Davis Project?**

We couldn’t live outside the context of a research library. We are heavy users of many library departments, including interlibrary loan (ILL), technical services, the Kelley Center and the Woodson Research Center (WRC). We also have used the Clayton Library, especially before the existence of www.ancestry.com and the online release of Confederate service records, plantation records and the collected papers of contemporaries produced by projects similar to ours. We scour newspapers, all of the Mississippi ones, and those from Richmond, the District of Columbia and New Orleans. Newspapers are often our only source for the texts of Davis’ speeches and day-by-day movements, to say nothing of conversations, interviews and obituaries.

**Specifically, what has been Fondren Library’s role in the Davis project?**

Due to Rice’s strong programs in Southern history, the library has bought resources that have been of great use to us, including National Archives microfilm collections of letters received by the Confederate secretary of war and adjutant general. We purchased city directories of New Orleans and D.C., as well as the newspapers I mentioned, then passed these along to Fondren. Serials librarian Alice Rhoades deserves a medal for all the tedious cataloging of the Mississippi newspapers, often several titles to a reel. Most of the state historical journals have been sent offsite to the Library Service Center (LSC) and, despite our initial trepidation, the delivery service has been wonderful. We have worked with technical services on a few LSC titles, such as the Senate Executive Journal, to enhance bibliographic records so we can more easily request the right volumes.

**Are there other library incidents or services which stand out in your memory?**

We don’t work frequently with patents, and I am grateful for the Kelley Center staff for whom this work is second nature, who even remember some requests long after we have forgotten them. Occasionally ILL will get for us a very specific edition of a work to which Davis refers in his writings. The WRC bought a few Davis letters and the staff there continue to scout eBay for primary resources that even now still come to light.

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**Is there anything else you would like readers to know about this long collaboration?**

For the first seven years of the project, Haskell M. Monroe, the first editor, traveled the South with a copy machine, well before those were standard equipment in libraries. The project has benefited from a series of graduate student interns, some of whom have pursued careers in public history, editing, museum work and publishing. Graduate students, volunteers and all the editorial staff members sat and read microfilmed newspapers in their entirety, gathering references to Davis. All that had to be done before we Portugal to be donated to Beauvoir, Jefferson Davis’ home.
Rice Readers Group Celebrates 10th Anniversary

In May 2015, the monthly Rice Readers book club will celebrate 10 years of reading at Rice. The group began one day after a Staff Advisory Committee event at the Grand Hall. Joyce Bald set up a table simply asking staff to sign up if they were interested in having a book club.

Things developed quickly from there, with the group’s very first book, “The Kite Runner” by Khaled Hosseini. Early attendees included Joyce Bald, Lisa Birenbaum, Martha Lou Broussard and Marie Monroe. This year, Rice Readers is headed by Elise McCutchen, senior library associate at the Business Information Center. Each meeting is led by a member, who provides background information for the discussion. Information provided can include maps, author biographies and photographs.

Current members were asked what kept them coming back every month and the replies were varied. Some wanted to meet other people, some were new to Rice, some enjoyed being exposed to new authors, and others appreciated thoughtful discussions and various points of view on a particular book.

“No one will judge you,” said one member about the group’s acceptance that it is not always possible for all readers to finish reading the book before the meeting to discuss it. Often, a lively discussion can prompt members to complete, or even start the book in question. Many choose to read more books by an author chosen for Rice Readers. The book club’s choice piques their interest or simply introduces them to an author they might not otherwise have considered.

Another participant acknowledged that the monthly lunchtime meetings are sometimes difficult to make, but the effort is well worth it to get out for socializing and thought-provoking discussions. Members simply meet to share thoughts and life experiences as surfaced by a particular book.

The group meets at noon on the last Wednesday of every month, generally in the Holland private dining room of the Rice Memorial Center. The group has no book assignment in July, choosing instead to visit a local restaurant. In August, the readers have often joined the Rice freshmen class in the Common Reading program. New members are always welcomed.

An announcement about each month’s book choice is sent to the alldepts listserv near the beginning of the month. For more information about Rice Readers, please contact Elise McCutchen at emccutch@rice.edu.

Debra Cosby
Staff Assistant, Technical Services
Digital Curation Lab Opens

Fondren’s basement is abuzz these days as the library makes improvements to its digital capabilities. In the new Digital Curation Lab (DCL), the library has created a collaborative workspace for digitization, digital curation and data management projects. On any given day, one might see preservation staff scanning oversized charts and maps from historical Rice theses, Woodson Research Center (WRC) archivists scanning irregular scrapbook items or collaborative project team meetings around the work tables. By providing a common space and the tools for digital curation, the DCL promotes interdepartmental and cross-campus collaboration.

Digital curation enables long-term preservation and access to rich Fondren collections of digitized print materials and born-digital content. The processes for digital curation require space for careful thought and the resources to find solutions for preserving the historical record and scholarly output of Rice University. The DCL provides access to the tools, resources and expertise for a range of digital projects.

The lab began to take shape with the purchase of a new oversized scanner. The Indus scanner, featuring a large scanning area (50-by-36 inches), can efficiently digitize architectural drawings, maps and images at high resolution. Digitized objects are typically deposited into the Rice Digital Scholarship Archive, https://scholarship.rice.edu, for preservation and scholarly access to these unique materials from the Rice community.

The relocation of the Digital Media Commons (DMC) from Herring Hall provided the opportunity to place a moving images workstation in the lab. The workstation has been configured to handle resource-intensive formats such as video and audio, with large storage capacity and the specialized software needed for these types of files. It was initially set up for the digitization of an oral history archives and is used to run automated batch processes for other image- and text-based collections. (See complete story about the DMC on page 10.)

A digital forensics workstation was created to support the preservation of electronic records. WRC archivists know digital archival records require thoughtful preservation actions to ensure long-term access and that the window of opportunity for their preservation is often smaller than that for analog archives. Digital forensics supports current electronic records in the collection as well as future university archives, which are increasingly born digital (e.g., email, meeting minutes, still images, data sets). This dedicated workstation, with BitCurator software, provides the tools to capture accurate and authentic representations of content on a variety of digital object carriers (floppy disks, hard drives, CD-ROMs).

Modern desks, rolling tables and comfortable ergonomic chairs were selected to create a cohesive and fresh look for the space. Installed picture frames will showcase rotating examples of current projects. The DCL is a truly collaborative space for staff from WRC, Preservation Services and Digital Scholarship Services to work and discuss potential projects. The space has a projector and can host demonstrations as well as meetings among project team members or with campus partners.

Rebecca Russell
Archivist/Special Collections Librarian
Fondren’s cataloging and metadata services department recently completed a yearlong project to provide access to essential individual U.S. government research documents via the library’s catalog. The materials come from the Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI), which makes research and development findings available to the Department of Energy (DOE) and the general public. Though the documents are freely available on OSTI’s website, additional access points will make them much easier to find in the catalog.

Rice’s commitment to energy as a research area has only grown over time. In 2012, Rice launched an Energy and Environment Initiative (e2i), and Fondren staff began reviewing support needs of researchers in these areas. The OSTI documents, which include technical documents, conference papers, articles, multimedia and software, were targeted as valuable but underutilized resources. Data from OSTI indicated that libraries that provided access through their catalogs observed substantially higher use of these materials. In light of the millions of dollars that Rice researchers receive from the DOE, the late Esther Crawford, then head of the Kelley Center for Government Information and Microforms, initiated the project.

“Fondren is one of the few depository libraries in the country for DOE reports,” explained Siu Min Yu, government information librarian. “We also hold a large collection of DOE reports in microfiche dating as far back as the 1940s. If a user is unable to locate a needed report through OSTI’s website, staff members at the Kelley Center can assist in locating these reports.”

But according to Linda Keating, the original monograph/special format cataloger who oversaw the load process, the delay in the project had one benefit — the record-load speed drastically improved because the library installed new servers.

The inclusion of these records in the catalog also highlights the existence of other DOE materials found in the library.

David M. Bynog
Assistant Head of Acquisitions
Library Improves Access to Early English Books

Another major undertaking in providing description and access for our electronic resources is adding more than 125,000 Early English Books Online (EEBO) bibliographic records into our catalog.

The EEBO collection contains full digital facsimile images of almost every work printed in England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and British North America as well as works in English printed elsewhere from 1473–1700 — from the first book printed in English by William Caxton through the age of Spenser and Shakespeare and the days of the English Civil War.

The entire collection now is searchable and within reach with a simple click on the links provided in the bibliographic records new to Fondren’s classic catalog.

Jiun Kuo
Head, Cataloging and Metadata Services

Another major undertaking in providing description and access for our electronic resources is adding more than 125,000 Early English Books Online (EEBO) bibliographic records into our catalog.

Chair belonging to Davis in the mid-1850s donated to the Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History for their new state history museum (opening in 2017).

Rice now is essentially the presidential library for Jefferson Davis. WRC has already incorporated many of the project’s maps, books and some microfilm, plus all of the original manuscripts. Some reels cannot be cataloged because they are unique holdings from other libraries. I estimate we have 100,000 documents in 20 filing cabinets, as well as electronic databases and a prize-winning website at https://jeffersondavis.rice.edu/. The WRC now will need to provide services to researchers who contact them or come to use the collections. Scholars approach the Davis resources with many different aims — writing plays and novels more than scholarly biographies, which are still few in number.

Melinda Reagor Flannery
Assistant University Librarian for Technical Services

Another major undertaking in providing description and access for our electronic resources is adding more than 125,000 Early English Books Online (EEBO) bibliographic records into our catalog.

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Another major undertaking in providing description and access for our electronic resources is adding more than 125,000 Early English Books Online (EEBO) bibliographic records into our catalog.
Fondren Adds Scanners

Fondren Library has recently added seven new self-service scanners to the three already in place on the first floor. These scanners are open without charge both to the Rice community and to general public users. The 11-by-17-inch scanners allow users to scan books or other materials consisting of letter-sized pages two pages at a time. Output can be sent via email or saved to a USB drive in PDF, Word, JPEG or HTML format.

Additional specialty scanners, such as document scanners and slide/film scanners, are available to the Rice community in the Digital Media Commons, library basement, suite B42. A complete list of available scanners can be found at https://library.rice.edu/services/dmc/resources/peripherals/scanners/scanners.

Charge Your Device at Fondren

Fondren Library recently acquired two device charging stations. They are located on the first floor near the Reference Desk and the sixth floor Rice-only quiet area. Each of these top-of-the-line models from ChargeTech feature six retractable charging cables, two USB ports and two universal electrical outlet adapters. They can be used for Apple iPads, e-readers, iPhones, Android phones and many other devices. Additionally, they accept electrical outlet plugs from other countries. Based on user feedback and usage, additional stations will be considered for other parts of the library.

Debra Kolah
User Experience Librarian

Remembering John Hunter

Fondren science librarian John Hunter died unexpectedly on Nov. 29, 2014, while visiting his family for Thanksgiving. John began his work at Fondren as a science librarian in 1982. Though he left Rice for a few years to work at the John B. Coleman Library at Prairie View A&M University, he devoted 33 years to Fondren and to Rice. He won the Rice Distinguished Service Award in 2002. During his career, he helped to build strong information services, developed a widespread network of colleagues and friends, and served as an advocate for Rice students. He volunteered at Texas Southern University and sometimes worked evening reference shifts at Houston Community College and the TMC Library. He was professionally active in the American Library Association and its Black Caucus (BCALA), the Science & Technology Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries, the Special Libraries Association, the Geological Society of America and the American Society for Engineering Education.

Funeral services were held Dec. 6, 2014 at Jefferson Jr. High School in Jefferson, Texas. A memorial service was held Jan. 12, 2015, in the Rice Memorial Chapel, with a wide range of Rice and Houston-area colleagues as well as many family members in attendance.

Only with Hunter’s death was the depth and breadth of his influence fully apparent. He was a tower of strength to his family and a deep source of generosity and kindness to friends, colleagues and all others in his path. Professionally, he was the epitome of excellent customer service and dedication to the university’s mission, as well as a strong support for the science and engineering departments he served as subject liaison. He was a mentor to many Rice students as well as fellow librarians near and far, working closely in his early years with the Black Student Association at Rice.

Hunter was honored with several resolutions from his professional connections, including the BCALA and the library staff of Prairie View A&M University Libraries. Acknowledging Hunter’s love of music, the Jan. 12, 2015, KPFT “Americana” show was dedicated to him.

Melinda Reagor Flannery
Assistant University Librarian for Technical Services
People

After more than twenty years working in the Texas A&M University (TAMU) libraries, Kathy Weimer’s enthusiasm and wide-ranging interest in serving the academic community hasn’t abated one bit. Weimer, Fondren’s new head of the Kelley Center for Government Information, talked about her position at Rice University: “I’m excited to be in this role because government information underscores practically everything we do and experience in our lives. It supports every discipline and research topic across campus. The government produces an extensive number of reports and research statistics on topics ranging from economics to housing to health and climate. Folks need to know what is freely available from the government — a wealth of information which supports an informed citizenry!”

Weimer was destined for a library career: her great-great-aunt, Martha Schnitzer, was the head librarian at the Houston Public Library in the 1940s, where she served for years under Julia Ideson. Schnitzer’s area of specialization was also government documents. Her grandmother, Elizabeth Morgenstern Hart ’19, was a Rice graduate and her father grew up in Houston, so the city is a second home for her. Weimer has a daughter studying humanities at Brandeis and a son, who is a freshman in high school. She has worked in cataloging, special collections and front line reference as well as performing physical processing and shelving books. At TAMU, she served as the operational supervisor of digitization services and led the steering committee that created policies for the institutional repository and scholarly communication outreach there as well as in support of the Texas Digital Library.

Most recently, Weimer coordinated the Map & GIS Library at TAMU. In this position, she directed library operations and oversaw collection development, cataloging and preservation of 250,000 maps, aerial photos and atlases, plus two terabytes of data and digital resources. While there, she developed two successful digital projects: the digital version of the Geologic Atlas of the United States and Mapping Historic Aggieland. Both promoted digitized special collections, emphasizing a map-based search interface.

Weimer is co-founder and co-chair of the Geohumanities Special Interest Group, Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations. She is a member of the editorial board of DiRT (Digital Research Tools), which provides information on digital tools and software to support those conducting digital research. As the head of GeoDiRT, she is involved in creating an enhanced catalog of geospatial software tools, with related tutorials and reviews. Weimer is also the co-editor of Journal of Map & Geography Libraries: Advances in Geospatial Information, Collections & Archives. Her leadership and enthusiasm for maps, GIS and use of geospatial information positioned the TAMU Map & GIS Library to earn a special achievement in GIS award in 2014 from Esri, an international GIS software vendor for Web GIS and geodatabase management applications.

Dara Flinn
Archivist Librarian

New Head of the Kelley Center for Government Information, Data and Geospatial Services
New Electronic Resources Librarian: Rising to the Challenge

As libraries’ online resources continue to grow in number and complexity, the task of managing these resources is becoming increasingly challenging. The variety of formats — no longer limited to journals and databases, but also encompassing both e-books and streaming video and audio materials — poses just one of the difficulties. A larger challenge, according to Scott Vieira, Fondren Library’s new electronic resources librarian, is in managing the overall workflow: “It is hard to give a structure to the work. You can’t get things done in a particular order; little things may take an hour or a month.”

Some of the work involved includes ordering and licensing content, ensuring that the resources function properly, and then establishing and maintaining access to these materials. Making that content discoverable to users via other systems, including the library’s e-journal portal and OneSearch platform as well as Google Scholar, is yet another component of Vieira’s job.

Well-equipped to deal with these duties, Vieira comes to Fondren with a diverse background in libraries and cultural institutions, having worked as an instructional design librarian at a public library, a technology consultant at a historical society and most recently as the electronic resources librarian at the Newton Gresham Library at Sam Houston State University. This previous experience has given him an understanding of user expectations and has instilled a strong sense of customer service. “Much of my job does not involve interacting directly with the public, but serving the public services staff in the library, supporting them in their jobs,” said Vieira. “A good indication that my job is well-done is if it seems invisible.”

Vieira still has occasion to connect with the public directly, and he maintains a collegial relationship with the many publishers and content providers with whom the library works. While the job may be challenging, it is never dull, and its ever-evolving nature keeps Vieira on his toes. Recently he has grown more interested in the licensing aspects of the job, taking a proactive role to ensure that the library’s rights are represented when acquiring electronic content. Vieira also is encouraged by the open-access movement, which makes research and articles more broadly available to the public. He thinks that libraries, with their traditional strengths in organization and quality control, are well-positioned to play an increased part in this movement.

When not wrestling with electronic resources, Vieira is an avid reader and frequent contributor of book reviews to the professional library literature. His eclectic reading interests and willingness to tackle any subject earned him a Reviewer of the Year award from Library Journal in 2012.

David M. Bynag
Assistant Head of Acquisitions
Social Science/Humanities Librarian Retires

On Feb. 11, 2015, library and university colleagues gathered to honor Fondren librarian Jane Segal on the occasion of her retirement.

Since her 1990 arrival at Fondren, Segal served as a reference librarian and subject liaison in social sciences and humanities disciplines. She coordinated the library’s bibliographic instruction programs, conducting countless sessions and courses herself. She produced user guides and liaison reports for her subject areas and served on many of Fondren’s committees and work groups, including the News From Fondren editorial committee.

Segal was among the first Fondren librarians to answer reference questions through email and was for many years the official responder for the library’s suggestion box. She was responsible for starting or managing quite a number of the library’s innovative programs — the Cherry Fund poetry readings, Rice participation in the Houston-wide Books on the Bayou and the leisure reading collection (books and audio books).

Segal’s wit and her openness to new challenges are among many qualities that will be missed here; Fondren staff wish her all the best in her retirement.

Melinda Reagor Flannery
Assistant University Librarian for Technical Services
The Digital Media Commons (DMC) recently moved back to Fondren Library. Now it is located in the basement suite B42, between the GIS Data Center and the Kelley Center for Government Information, Data and Geospatial Services. With the move came upgraded and expanded services.

Two new studios are now available: a video/photography studio and an audio studio. The video/photography studio is equipped with a green wall, seven ceiling-mounted LED lights, white and black backdrops, and all the equipment needed for shooting videos and taking photographs. The audio studio is set up with an iMac computer, two microphones and an excellent audio interface, which allows users to record voice-over narrations and dialogues. Both studios are soundproof with acoustical panels on the walls. When you walk into the studios, you have a feeling you are in a professional audio/video space.

The new multipurpose room is a closed space with seating for 12–18. It is appropriate for small meetings, workshops or other collaborative activities.

Now Rice students, faculty and staff can come to the DMC to use the new studio spaces and the multipurpose room. The rooms can be reserved in blocks of up to four hours; reservations can be made a month in advance.

The DMC has been away from Fondren for 10 years. The chart below shows the differences between services offered in 2005 and those now offered.

Jane Zhao
Director, Digital Media Commons

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|                      |              | -1 plotter
|                      |              | -1 CD/DVD label printer
|                      |              | (a variety of print services available for users) |
| Open hours           | Mon–Thurs, 10 a.m.–8 p.m.; Fri, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sat, 2–5 p.m.; Sun, 2–7 p.m. | Mon–Thurs, 9 a.m.–10 p.m.; Fri, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sat-Sun, 1–5 p.m. |

A complete list of DMC services, reservation forms and more images of the new space are available at www://dmc.rice.edu.
While video resources have played a role in academic instruction since the early part of the 20th century, their educational value has often been considered secondary to that of books and journals. But technology has moved beyond the filmstrip projectors of the 1920s and, with the widespread availability of tools for recording videos and the ease of making them available on the Internet, many feel that the educational potential of video is only now being realized. Beyond free videos available on popular streaming media sites like YouTube and Vimeo, teachers and students are increasingly in need of materials available via fee-based services. In support of the growing needs of faculty and students, Fondren continues to add streaming video services to our collections. Three substantial services available through Fondren include:

**Films on Demand**
http://bit.ly/1bv46KV

Currently the largest of Rice’s streaming video services, Films on Demand has more than 15,000 titles in the humanities and sciences. Documentaries, TED Talks, news segments, Broadway plays, and National Geographic specials are some of the diverse types of videos available. Users can create individual accounts within the system to build playlists, designate favorites or opt to receive new-title alerts.

**Met Opera on Demand: Student Access**
http://bit.ly/1HV6qHm

Met Opera on Demand: Student Access offers Rice University users instant access to more than 450 full-length Met performances, including stunning HD videos from the Met’s award-winning Live in HD series of movie theater transmissions; classic telecasts from the 1970s, ’80s, and ’90s; and hundreds of radio broadcasts dating back to 1936.

**Journal of Visualized Experiments (JoVE)**
http://bit.ly/1Jc5BLF

In perhaps the most striking example of Thomas Edison’s vision that video could make scientific truths plain and clear, JoVE was established in 2006 as the world’s first peer-reviewed scientific video journal. Working with professional videographers, authors present their methods and results via video, easing the user’s burden of learning techniques and difficult processes from text and images alone. JoVE is divided into multiple sections, and Rice currently has access to the Bioengineering, Biology, Chemistry, Developmental Biology and Science Education Database (1 to 6) sections.

**Kanopy**
http://bit.ly/1yPXLUt

The newest addition to Fondren’s rapidly growing collection of streaming video services is Kanopy. Dubbed “Netflix for Colleges,” Kanopy is particularly focused on filmmakers, providing a forum for them to share their work and engage with students. Rice currently has access to nearly 10,000 titles across a wide range of subject areas.

David M. Bynog
Assistant Head of Acquisitions
Important Francis Poulenc Archive Arrives at Fondren

Rice Digital Scholarship Archive Updates

The Rice Digital Scholarship Archive (RDSA) showcases Rice's unique intellectual and creative output, such as faculty publications deposited under the university's open access policy, more than 8,500 theses and dissertations, back issues of The Rice Thresher and Rice Institute Pamphlets, Shepherd School of Music performances and oral histories collected by the Chao Center. In addition, it contains grant-funded cultural heritage collections such as the Our Americas Archive Partnership and the Travelers in the Middle East Archive, as well as images, video and texts from the Woodson Research Center.

As a result of small-scale usability testing, improvements to the RDSA are being implemented, including: improving the graphic display of metadata for videos, improving the functionality and noticeability of the gear icon and making clearer the functions that are available to users once they have logged in. The new graphic design features a more modern, sleek interface with images from the collection, plus buttons that make navigating to specific collections easier.

New features include:

- A cleaner visual design that is more consistent with Rice's brand standards.
- A responsive, mobile-friendly design based on a theme developed by a leader in the DSpace community. (DSpace is the open-source institutional repository software used at Rice.)
- Faceted browsing using DSpace Discovery. For example, you can drill down in our collection of more than 8,500 Rice theses and dissertations by department, adviser, degree level, etc.
- Highlighted hits in search results.
- Updated JPEG 2000 image viewer, which features fluid zooming and panning and a full-screen viewing option.
- It not only works with a PC mouse and scroll wheel, but now works with pinch and drag on mobile devices. To see an example, try http://bit.ly/1Fcetjf.

In the words of Rice's open-access policy, the RDSA advances the university's goal of disseminating "the fruits of its research and scholarship as widely as possible.” Because of the RDSA, scholars and citizens who do not have access to expensive subscription databases can still read the latest research produced by Rice faculty, as well as explore rich collections of text, images, audio and video. Open access may also make faculty's research more visible, and many studies suggest that it can lead to more citations.

Over the next year, according to Lisa Spiro, executive director of digital scholarship services, Fondren “hopes to enrich its collection of undergraduate research projects and develop a collection focused on research data. In addition, a new collection is being created focused on maps accompanying earth science theses and dissertations.”

Debra Kolah
User Experience Librarian

Fondren Library announces the acquisition of the Rose Lambirotte Family Francis Poulenc Archive, consisting of original autograph musical manuscripts, signed and inscribed printed scores, autograph letters and related material. Francis Poulenc (1899–1963) was a French composer and a member of the group Les Six. He has come to be considered the greatest composer of French mélodies of the period from the 1920s until the early 1960s. The collection originates with the Lambirotte family, who were longtime personal friends of the composer. Rose’s husband, Auguste, was a wealthy Belgian industrialist and noted book collector. The Lambirottes became Poulenc’s “adopted” Belgian family in the mid-1940s, and he frequently stayed with them at their rue Saint-Bernard mansion in Brussels. Stay tuned for more information in upcoming issues of News From Fondren.

Mary Du Mont Brower
Music Librarian
Scientific American Archive Added

Scientific American is the world’s premier magazine of scientific discovery and technological innovation for the general public. Readers turn to it for a deep understanding of how science and technology can influence human affairs and illuminate the natural world. Its readers are not primarily scientists; readers with technical backgrounds tend to read Scientific American for information about areas outside their expertise.

In every issue, leading scientists, inventors and engineers from diverse fields describe their ideas and achievements in clear and accessible prose; the work of select journalists rounds out the offerings. The graphics are rich in content and visual style. Articles of note include a 1932 article called And Now the Neutron, the prophetically titled 1954 article Computers in Business and policy pieces, including the 1990 Al Gore essay, A New Initiative to Save the Planet.

Archival content from 1845 to 2014 is now available at http://bit.ly/1DAZ19S. The articles are available as PDFs.

The Scientific American archive is an integrated part of the nature.com platform. The archive is searchable by keyword, author, article title or digital object identifier (DOI) for refined results. Alternatively, users can also browse by year and issue.

Access to current issues of this journal is available at http://bit.ly/1GHt5X3.

Debra Kolab
User Experience Librarian

The Friends of Fondren Library celebrated its 65th anniversary at its 35th annual gala March 27 at River Oaks Country Club. Joining in the celebration were 350 Friends of Fondren members, Rice alumni and friends of the university.

Friends of Fondren Library board president Debby Crabtree welcomed the crowd and introduced gala honorees Rice University President David Leebron and Ping Sun, who were recognized for their numerous accomplishments and contributions to the university. In their remarks, Leebron and Sun spoke about the importance of Fondren Library’s role in Rice students’ academic successes as well its role as a gathering place for students. They also thanked Sara Lowman, vice provost and university librarian, for her leadership.

Ben Edquist, a graduate student in vocal performance in the Shepherd School, entertained the audience with a rendition of Cole Porter’s “I Get a Kick Out of You” at the beginning of the program and later returned to the stage for a performance of “Ice, Ice Baby” for the paddles-up donation segment of the live auction, specifically benefitting the library’s Digital Media Commons. Benjamin Krause, a graduate student in music composition in the Shepherd School, played piano during the reception and accompanied Edquist for his performance.

Crabtree thanked honorary chairs Peggy and Bill Barnett, Molly and Jim Crownover, Anne and Charles Duncan, and Phoebe and Bobby Tudor, along with gala chairs Melinda Snell and Bess Wareing and their committee members for creating a memorable evening.

In its early days, the Friends’ gala focused on procuring particular books that were needed by the library. These were “auctioned” and the winning bidders donated the items back to the library. Over the years, the event grew and a silent auction and special occasion events were added. In recent years, the gala has featured a silent auction, special occasions sign ups, paddles-up donations and the live auction. This year’s event raised record funding which will be used for library resources and facilities. Photos of the event can be viewed on Fondren Library’s Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/pages/Fondren-Library/15587285151.

Judy Howell
Executive Director, Friends of Fondren Library
Fondren Library Supports Common Reading Program

Incoming freshmen at Rice University come from diverse parts of the state, the nation and the world, and each student arrives with his or her own unique perspective and experiences. In 2005, as a means of creating a common experience, promoting understanding and stimulating conversation, Rice created the Common Reading program for freshmen.

Each year, a committee composed of students, faculty and staff selects a book on a relevant topic or pressing issue. Typically, a copy of the book is mailed to new students in July and international students receive a copy when they arrive on campus; an electronic copy also is available through the Fondren Library to users who have a Rice NetID.

As part of O-Week activities, students attend a lecture by the book’s author and participate in faculty-led group discussions about the book. According to the Dean of Undergraduates John Hutchinson, “A primary goal of the program is to show students how their Rice education can disrupt their thinking and thereby help them grow.”

This year’s incoming class will be reading excerpts from “Whistling Vivaldi: How Stereotypes Affect Us and What We Can Do (Issues of Our Time)” (W. W. Norton & Company, 2010) by Claude M. Steele. This book was selected and read by the freshman class in 2012. Due to its impact, it is being repeated. If you would like to read along, other examples of books that have been part of the program include the following: “Photography as Activism: Images for Social Change” by Michelle Bogre; “Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can’t Stop Talking” by Susan Cain; “The House at Sugar Beach: In Search of a Lost African Childhood” by Helene Cooper; “The Honor Code: How Moral Revolutions Happen” by Anthony Appiah; “Three Cups of Tea: One Man’s Mission to Promote Peace — One School at a Time” by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin; “Field Notes From a Catastrophe: Man, Nature and Climate Change” by Elizabeth Kolbert.

* Stereotypes focus of 2012 Common Reading by Amy McCaig, Rice News, May 3, 2012

Judy Howell
Executive Director, Friends of Fondren Library
25 Years Ago in Rice University History

The 16th Economic Summit, a yearly forum that gathers leaders of the world's major industrialized nations, was held on the Rice campus July 9–11, 1990. Portions of Fondren Library were transformed for the event as the library played host to finance and foreign ministers from participating countries, while the Business Information Center — then housed in Herring Hall where the Center for Teaching Excellence is today — served as the site for the main plenary meetings.