

FONDREN

Volume 25, No. 2 • Spring 2016

Snatching Gems From the Ash Heap: Saving the KTRU Tapes

As Rice University's student-run radio station, KTRU, returns to the FM broadcast spectrum, Fondren's archivists in the Woodson Research Center (WRC) are racing to save historical broadcasts on crumbling analog media.

The project, which began in September 2015, seeks to digitize the 25 boxes of reel-to-reel audio tape that comprise the WRC's archival collection UA011, Rice University KTRU Radio records. The collection contains news broadcasts, political speeches, rock interviews and other unique content broadcast on the student radio station between 1968 and 1987. "The tapes give an audio history of the university, but also reveal tidbits of Houston's history that might have been forgotten," said Norie Guthrie, archivist and special collections librarian and the project's instigator.

In terms of preservation, the KTRU collection is in a precarious situation. Though highly regarded for its potential audio quality, magnetic audiotape has a short lifespan and suffers from natural deterioration and decay as well as from constant use. Additionally, some audiotape (especially from the 1970s and 1980s) is at risk from a condition called "sticky shed syndrome," in which the chemicals bonding the tape's magnetic coating to the plastic carrier break down, causing the tape to tear and "shed," effectively destroying it.

"These tapes were donated in the late 1980s, and have not been played in years," said Guthrie. "While we weren't sure of the kinds of information we might find, we knew that we had to act quickly to preserve them."

KTRU has had a complex history, broadcasting from different spots under different call letters over increasingly powerful frequencies. The station first started broadcasting in February 1967 as KHCR, a two-watt station transmitted by students from the Hanzsen College basement. Over time, its content evolved

with contemporary musical shifts, from art rock in the 1970s to alternative, experimental and underground rock in the 1980s. The 1980s also brought the addition of specialty shows, a tradition that continues to this day with shows such as the Mutant Hardcore Flower Hour and four-hour jazz block every Sunday afternoon. Additionally, KTRU broadcast Rice athletic events, interviews, public lectures of Rice affiliates, concerts from the Shepherd School of Music, and news and events relating to the campus and beyond.



After many years of broadcasting, KTRU's tower, FM frequency and license were sold by Rice in 2011 to the University of Houston system, so the station stopped broadcasting, although it continued to stream online and through Houston's KPFT digital radio channel. KTRU returned to FM broadcasting in October 2015 at 96.1 with call letters KBLT-LP, as KTRU was already in use by another station. Round-the-clock streaming of current KTRU broadcasts can be accessed at <http://ktru.org/listen>.

The digitization project is expected to run until fall 2016, at which point phase two will begin: digitizing the audio reels stored at KTRU.

Audio already digitized includes on-campus talks and conversations with Gene Roddenberry, Jacques Cousteau, and Jerry Rubin; live on-air concerts performed at Rice (including one with blues legends Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee); and backstage interviews with notable '70s performers, such as Mike Love of the Beach Boys, Billy Joel, Janis Ian, Peter Gabriel and Nick Lowe. There are plans to make some of the audio available in the Rice Digital Scholarship Archives. For now, content is being shared through YouTube clips and the WRC blog, such as this interview with Joan Jett and Sandy West of The Runaways: <http://bit.ly/1Mf0H4b>.

Scott Carlson
Metadata Coordinator

CHECK IT OUT!

Pg. 2 Concert Celebrates Music of Difference

Pg. 8 Fondren Library Renovates First-Floor Reading Room

Pg. 15 The Man Behind the Music: Francis Poulenc



RICE
Fondren Library

Concert Celebrates Music of Difference

Since its inception in 2008, the Fondren Library Accessibility Committee has partnered with Rice Disability Support Services to offer yearly training to library and campus personnel about accessibility issues. On Nov. 13, 2015, Fondren had the unique opportunity of welcoming back one of its former student workers to present an accessibility program. Catherine Branch Lewis '08, who was a student worker in circulation while completing her degree at the Shepherd School of Music in flute performance, holds both a master's and a doctorate degree in music from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester and now is assistant director of the University of Rochester's Center for Community Leadership. She also teaches a course about disability, mentorship and inclusive higher education and coordinates peer mentor support for University of Rochester students with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Upon graduation from Rice, she was awarded a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship to research the role of art in social activism around the world. She used the fellowship to create a concert series, Music of Difference, which encourages positive conversations about disability and diversity. Premiering in

Sydney, Australia, where she completed her fellowship, the program also has been presented at venues around the United States, including at universities such as Harvard, Wake Forest, and Northern Colorado and at festivals such as the VSA International Disability Arts Festival in Washington, D.C. In her engaging lecture at Rice, Lewis discussed her personal and global exploration of disability and ways to fuel social change and inclusive communities. Before the lecture, she also met with Rice students who have just been awarded Watson Fellowships and with the Center for Civic Leadership staff.

More information about Lewis's inspiring talk is available from a Nov. 23, 2015, Rice News article, "A Voice for the Arts, Disability and Inclusion," at <http://news.rice.edu/2015/11/23/a-voice-for-the-arts-disability-and-inclusion-speaks-at-rice/>.

More information about Fondren's Accessibility Committee is available at <http://libguides.rice.edu/accessibility>. Information about Music of Difference can be found at <http://www.musicofdifference.com/>.

*Linda Spiro
Government
Information Librarian*



‘Celebrating 50 Years of Black Undergraduate Life at Rice’

During the 1965–1966 academic year, the first black undergraduate students were admitted to Rice University, marking one of the most significant milestones in the university’s history. In 2016, the Association of Rice University Black Alumni (ARUBA) commemorates the historic anniversary with special events throughout the year. The Woodson Research Center (WRC) partnered with ARUBA to create an exhibit chronicling black history at Rice. The exhibit, on display in the Rice Memorial Center through May 2016, features Rice photographs, newspapers, T-shirts and memorabilia, through the years.

Included in the display is a Houston Chronicle Sunday Magazine feature on Jacqueline McCauley ’70, one of the first black undergraduate students admitted to Rice. Also featured is a newsclipping from the Rice Thresher remarking on the 1970 commencement when Theodore Henderson and Linda Faye Williams ’70 became the first black undergraduates to graduate from Rice.

Photographs of outstanding Rice athletes Rodrigo Barnes ’73 and Ricky Pierce ’83 are included. In his time, Barnes was one of only four African-American athletes at Rice and one of 12 black undergraduates.

He was the first African-American to be named to an All-Southwest Conference Defensive Team. Pierce was an outstanding basketball player, finishing his career as the all-time leader in school history with 1,847 points. He was the Owls first NBA first round pick when the Detroit Pistons selected him in 1982.

WRC also provided images for a forum titled “Reflections of the Past, Promises for the Future” held Feb. 18, 2016, in McNair Hall. The ARUBA-sponsored forum featured Rice Centennial Historian Melissa Kean ’96 who provided a historical overview of Rice’s decision to desegregate. Allen Matusow, the William Gaines Twyman Professor Emeritus of History, spoke about Charles Freeman ’69, the first black undergraduate male, and the broader changes that occurred at Rice, Houston and the United States in the 1960s.

In a panel discussion, Rice alumni Jan West ’73, Charles Szalkowski ’70, Regina Tippins ’74 and Ronald Arceneaux ’74 spoke about their memories of Rice during the 1960s and 1970s. On her decision to come to Rice, West said, “My father felt that Rice was a gift to Texas and his daughter deserved that gift.” Panel members discussed their

impressions of Rice and the pressures they each felt to be successful.

Arceneaux and his family returned to Rice for the event. During his visit to campus he recognized a picture of his young family in a brochure on display in the exhibit case. The brochure featured information on the “life of the black student on the Rice campus” and one of the photographs was of Arceneaux, his wife and their young daughter. He had not seen the photograph or brochure in many years. Describing his time at Rice, Arceneaux said, “The greatest experiences were not those where your blackness stood out, but it was those where you were just enjoying the college experience.”

Current and future WRC projects will continue to investigate the history of integration at Rice. As part of a program of cultural heritage practica, WRC has partnered with Rice’s Humanities Research Center to create student projects working with primary source materials in the archives. This semester, an undergraduate student is using archival material to create an online exhibit which investigates Rice’s admission of black undergraduates and the decision to let women live on campus.

Rebecca Russell
Archivist/Special Collections Librarian



Library Contributes User Experience Assessment for Learning Management System

Rice has been looking at systems that might replace OwlSpace as the university's learning management system (LMS). Fondren staff have been heavily involved in this research. Diane Butler, Fondren's former director of Information Technology and Access Services, has served as the chair of the working group of the Rice LMS project. This team worked on the usability of Canvas, an LMS system, using the staff and resources of Fondren Library's User Experience Office, facilitating communication with faculty and students to learn if the learning management system would meet their needs.

Fondren's User Experience Office designed and coordinated the usability assessment of the current version of Canvas in 2015, comparing the results to a parallel usability study of OwlSpace, which is currently the learning management system used at Rice. The usability study of Canvas followed the International Standards Organization's guidance on usability standard (ISO 9241-11). Qualitative and quantitative data were analyzed from more than 300 Rice users in ethnographic studies and user testing. Participants included professors, lab/teaching assistants, undergraduate/graduate students, librarians, system supporters and administrators. Over a period of six months, interviews, surveys, in-context observations and task-based lab testing contributed to a good understanding of the use of Canvas. Both new users, who had no experience using Canvas, and users who were active Canvas users were included in the Canvas pilot classes.

The results showed a preference for Canvas over OwlSpace across different user groups, and highlighted some areas where usability could be improved. The spring 2016 pilot is well underway and a decision from the Information Technology committee's Academic Technology subcommittee is expected soon. "I am pleased with the enthusiasm and support that we have received from faculty willing to participate in the pilot," Butler said. "I'd like to thank all faculty and students for their time and feedback." In addition, Fondren's Web/graphic designer designed the user interface for the Canvas pilot. Additional information on the Canvas project can be found at: <http://www.rice.edu/canvas>.



Farewell to Diane Butler

Fondren Library said farewell to Diane Butler in January after 10 years of service, most recently as director of Information Technology and Access Services. She was awarded the library's Shapiro Award in 2012 and was also selected for the 2013–2015 Leadership Fellows Program of the Association of Research Libraries.

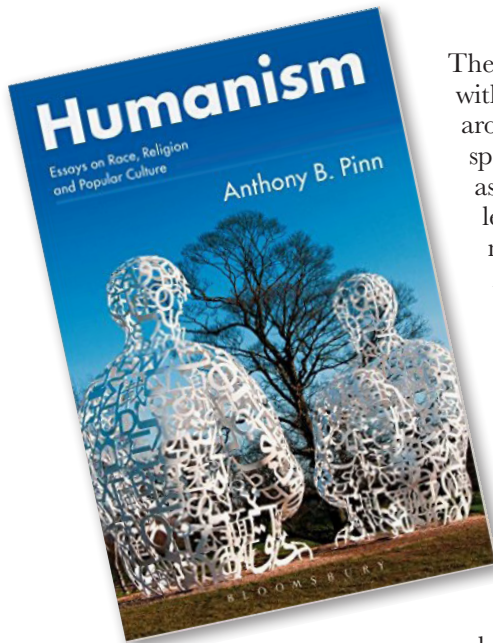
Butler has taken the position of associate vice president in the Office of Information Technology (OIT). In Butler's new position, she envisions continued collaboration with Fondren Library, with possibilities including increased communication between the OIT help desk and Fondren Library users as well as future projects that support teaching and learning.

Sara Lowman, Fondren's vice provost and university librarian, said, "The library will miss Diane's enthusiasm, leadership, and strategic thinking, but wishes her well in her new position with OIT. Diane did a great job moving the library forward with key projects such as

better catalog services and navigation, unparalleled desktop support, customer service and website design. She and the library's IT team built and supported many technologies that supported the university's research mission. This is a great opportunity for Diane and will position the library and OIT well for future collaborations."

Debra Kolah
Head of User Experience

Meet the Author Series: A Campus Collaboration



The Friends of Fondren Library often collaborates with people, departments and organizations around the Rice campus in order to secure event speakers, enlist aid in promoting programs such as the Fondren Library Research Awards and lend support for events. One of the Friends' more recent collaborations has been with the Association of Rice Alumni (ARA).

The Meet the Author series started two years ago as an outgrowth of discussions between the Friends of Fondren Library and the ARA about forming book clubs. Rather than hosting individual, competing events of a similar nature, the two organizations joined forces to create a semiannual book review, highlighting Rice faculty, alumni and staff authors. The two groups co-market each event to their members and share costs and responsibilities,

such as selecting authors for future programs.

The collaboration has resulted in a stronger sense of community among Friends of Fondren Library and ARA members and developed a bond between the organizations.

The next installment in the series on June 15 will feature Rice University's Agnes Cullen Arnold Professor of Humanities and professor of religion Anthony B. Pinn. In his newest book "Humanism: Essays on Race, Religion and Popular Culture," Pinn provides a humanities-based analysis and description of humanism in relation to our nation's rapidly changing demographics, marked most profoundly by those who no longer claim a religious affiliation. This group, also known as the "Nones," "includes a wide spectrum of philosophical and ideological perspectives—some in line with various forms of theism, those who are atheistic and all sorts of combinations in between," according to Pinn. In the context of these ongoing societal changes, Pinn explores humanism in relation to how life is arranged, socialized, ritualized and framed. More information about this event can be found at <http://library.rice.edu/friends>.

Previous authors in the series included:

- Scott Dodson '96, who wrote "The Legacy of Ruth Bader Ginsburg," which chronicles and evaluates the achievements made by Supreme Court Justice Ginsburg over the past 50 years;
- Baker Institute fellow for the Middle East Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, whose book, "The First World War in the Middle East," focuses on how international politics and regional warfare during the early 20th century shaped the Middle East as we know it today;
- Elizabeth Crook '82, whose novel, "Monday, Monday," is set against the background of the real life tragedy of the 1966 University of Texas tower shootings; and
- Baker Institute fellow and professor of history Douglas G. Brinkley, whose book, "Cronkite," has been hailed as the "definitive, revealing biography of an American legend."



Suggestions for future

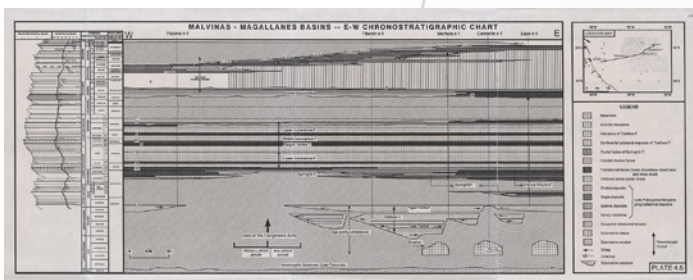
**Meet the Author programs
or for future collaborations
may be submitted to the
Friends of Fondren Library
at fofl@rice.edu.**

Judy Howell
Executive Director, Friends of Fondren Library

Oversized Illustrations Reunited With Their Texts in the Institutional Repository

The Rice Digital Scholarship Archive (RDSA) is home to almost 9,000 of Rice University's theses and dissertations, including almost 500 from the earth science department. Many of these earth science manuscripts — some dating as far back as the 1950s — originally included oversized visual resources such as seismic profiles and geologic cross sections to supplement and enrich the main text. Unfortunately, due to early scanning techniques, digital reproductions of these large materials were treated as standard, U.S. letter-sized (8.5-by-11 inch) pages and scanned in black and white, thus muting their richness and limiting their use in research and scholarship.

Fondren Library is working with the earth science department to identify works with relevant accompanying materials, such as maps and cross sections, in their historical masters and doctoral papers. These newly digitized, oversized materials are being scanned according to archival standards using Fondren's Indus large-format scanner, a process overseen by project manager Monica Rivero. Image files are being linked to the relevant thesis or dissertation files in the RDSA. To view the images, search the collection by "maps" under the "browse by type" feature, or use the link <http://tinyurl.com/hhw85q4>.



Melinda Reagor Flannery, assistant university librarian for technical services, has been involved for many years in thesis and dissertation processing. She "is overjoyed that the digital versions of Rice earth science dissertations will now be as complete as the analog versions are."

The earth science project for oversized materials digitization is part of a larger push to improve RDSA access to Fondren's electronic theses and dissertations and enhance their content. Other projects include the retrospective scanning of more than 1,400 theses that are currently not available online, as well as including a "browse by department" option to make these materials more findable within the RDSA.

Scott Carlson
Metadata Coordinator

Western Hinnoy (upper right): Hakkinen, Joseph William. "Structural Geology and Metamorphic History of Western Hinnoy and Adjacent parts of Eastern Hinnoy, North Norway." (1977) Rice University. <http://hdl.handle.net/1911/15291>.

Malvinas (lefthand side): Galeazzi, Jose Sebastian. "Stratigraphic and Structural Evolution of the Western Malvinas and Southeastern Magallanes Basins, Argentina." (1994) Rice University. <http://hdl.handle.net/1911/13833>.

background image: Mutch, Anika Jan. "A Sequence Stratigraphic Analysis of an Oligocene to Miocene Carbonate Platform: Beagle and Northern Dampier subbasins, Australia." (2000) Rice University. <http://hdl.handle.net/1911/17366>.

ORCID: A Useful Tool to Resolve Authorship Confusion

Do you have a common name often confused with other researchers? Are you annoyed by having to enter the same information over and over in manuscript and grant submission systems? ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) might be the solution. ORCID provides a unique identifier to help researchers get credit for and track all their research and other professional contributions over their careers. In addition, many online publishers and research resources are integrating ORCID into their operations. For example, you may soon be able to use ORCID for single sign on with your journal publisher. When researching, you can already use ORCID to search and cross-reference publications by researchers in some databases, such as Web of Science.

ORCID

Connecting Research and Researchers



Setting up an ORCID account is free and simple. Just go to <http://orcid.org/> and follow the three easy steps. The earlier you create an ORCID account and start uploading your grants and publications, the earlier ORCID is going to help save you time. You can set privacy settings, too, to control who can view your information.

Fondren recently became an ORCID institutional member and is looking forward to integrating the ORCID API into Rice research workflows, to promote the benefits of ORCID with Rice researchers and improve functionality of library services with other services across campus.

A number of library staff are a part of an informal ORCID users group, which has met several times to discuss ORCID integrations and campus outreach. The library also is working with the Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs to support integration of ORCID into the new faculty information system, Converis. Additional information about ORCID at Rice can be found at <http://libguides.rice.edu/AuthorIdentifiers/ORCID>.

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Fondren Library Renovates First-Floor Reading Room



Traditionally, academic libraries housed large collections of current print journals on the first floor where they could be readily accessed by faculty and students. However, the trend over the past decade has been to acquire new journals online whenever possible, and slowly cancel print subscriptions.

Over the past year, Fondren has proactively redesigned the space on the first floor and, where there were once rows and rows of empty shelving, there now is a beautiful open space complete with an array of furniture to suit the preferences of those relaxing or studying. Design was driven by student feedback from previous studies on the renovation of the study rooms; our research has shown that students like a variety of flexible seating, good lighting and readily available power outlets.

Two small rooms near the reading room, which in past lives served as a newspaper storage area and a copier room, were repurposed in the renovation. This spring, the User Experience (UX) Office of Fondren gathered in-person feedback from 33 students and surveyed an additional 81 students. Based on that feedback, the two rooms are being made into cozy reading rooms, with comfortable seating spaces that can be reserved by students in our online study room reservation system.

The area has proved to be very popular this spring. Joanne Kim '19 said, "For me, the first floor of Fondren Library is the best place to study because of its ambience. The space isn't too hot, too cold, too loud or too quiet. Its high ceiling and warm lights are relaxing, and the comfortable chairs and desks accompanied by the charging stations help me focus. I spend most of my day studying there."

Café-style carrels are now positioned at one end of the reading room and have proved to be very popular. Seating in front of the large picture windows includes high-back chairs, complementary footstools and Eames walnut stools by HermanMiller.

Renovations to the first-floor reading room were made possible with funding from the Friends of Fondren Library. Proceeds from the Friends' annual gala are designated for improvements to the library's collections, equipment and facilities for the benefit of the students, faculty, staff and community. "I am very appreciative for the support of the Friends of Fondren in making this project possible," said Sara Lowman, the university librarian. "Their past commitment to building collections, endowments and space renovations is invaluable."

Future first-floor renovations will also include the redesign of a 576-square-foot room previously used as a computer lab and then as a temporary location for the DVD collection. Based on student feedback, this room will become a conference room, with some reservable times. Features will include a large conference table and approximately 16 chairs. Additionally, several comfortable chairs currently located in the third-floor Lovett Lounge will be reupholstered and relocated to this new student conference room.

Debra Kolab
Head of User Experience

Improvements in Access Services

Paperless Receipts:

With a new update to Sirsi Workflows, the library's integrated library system, Fondren is going greener. Access Services staff can now email users receipts with due dates instead of printing them out. This new service comes with two options: a receipt for current transactions only and one that includes every item charged to the account.

Battery Chargers:

To go along with the new USB-friendly furniture in the reading room, the circulation desk now provides portable battery chargers for mobile devices. Users can check them out with a valid Rice ID for a four-hour period and have a choice of micro-USB or Apple Lightning cables to provide connection to their devices.

On-site ILL:

Fondren is partnering with local university libraries at Houston Baptist University, Texas Southern University, University of Houston-Central, University of Houston-Clear Lake, University of Houston-Downtown and University of St. Thomas to offer approved users on-site reciprocal borrowing. Users can learn more about borrowing and lending arrangements and request on-site approval online at <http://library.rice.edu/guides/site-interlibrary-loan>. Note that this service requires approval prior to beginning to borrow.

Sue Garrison
Head, Access Services

Michael Chiles
Access Services Associate



New Leadership for Access Services



On March 10, I spoke with **Sue Garrison**, head of Access Services, not much more than two months past her start date at Fondren Library.

Q: Welcome to Fondren! What brought you to Rice?

A: I've always loved the campus since moving to Houston nine years ago. I wanted to move from exercising on the Outer Loop to working in the Inner Loop. I've always liked to work for organizations that are tops in their field.

Q: How do you see your previous experience informing your work here?

A: I've been involved in bringing about change in a number of areas, automating work processes, improving user experience using touch screens, locator services and radio frequency ID (RFID) technology. I hope I can bring what I learned at the Wall Street Journal and other companies to bear on Fondren's needs. Right now, I am looking at carrel reservations and fines and fees.

Q: How do you see the role of Access Services shifting?

A: I see Access Services working hand in hand with Research Services and other areas, finding new ways to provide services, both in circulation of materials and also in the non-borrowing functions such as providing convenient non-library items like chargers and access to spaces for study, collaboration, presentation and the like.

Q: What makes your day?

A: Coming in every day with the ability to bring about change, learn new things, experience the work firsthand.

Q: Has anything about Rice been unexpected?

A: Perhaps I'm a little surprised that there is so much opportunity to shape the work we do by making connections and working together. People at Rice are so approachable and willing to work with you to do what is best for the university.

Q: What are you reading right now?

A: I'm trying to keep up with the Rice Readers. I'm just finishing "All the Light We Cannot See" and before that read "Just Us Kids." Next we will read "H is For Hawk." I'm three classes away from finishing my MBA at the University of Houston, so there's some reading there, too.

Q: Is there anything else our readers should know?

A: I have a varied background. I've worked in communications with a lot of library folks. I've been a DJ on Top 40, all-talk, sports and country radio stations. I work with Sight Into Sound to make recordings for the visually impaired and dyslexic. I stay pretty busy.

Melinda Reagor Flannery

Assistant University Librarian for Technical Services



New Collection Assessment and Engineering Librarian

A native of Shenyang, the capital of Liaoning Province and the largest city in northeast China, **Jun Qian** is delighted to return to Texas, where she earned her Master of Science in information studies at the University of Texas. From a small university town in Connecticut, where she served as engineering librarian for the University of Connecticut, Qian moved to Houston last December. She is enjoying the amenities of a large international city, including the warmer weather.

Qian came to Fondren well-equipped to fill the role of collection assessment and engineering librarian. She holds a Bachelor of Science in physics and a Master of Engineering in computer science. Before she moved to the United States, Qian was a librarian/engineer for five years. In her previous positions, she collaborated with research teams in collecting, analyzing, and managing scientific research data; co-developed and tested engineering software; performed statistical analysis for two National Science Foundation-funded projects; and trained graduate students and staff.

Now the subject librarian for civil and environmental engineering, computer science, electrical and computer engineering, materials science and nanoengineering, mechanical engineering and earth science, she partners with fellow science librarian Bob Sabin to meet the needs of the engineering faculty and students. On her second day at Fondren she began to introduce herself to the engineering faculty. At her request, the Fondren website was updated to improve coverage of databases relevant to engineering in the “Databases by Subject” search. She is using her skills in data analysis to evaluate the usage statistics of engineering journals and will be analyzing engineering databases as well.

One of Qian’s goals is to share her experiences and thus assist international students to adjust to life at Rice and become familiar with all the resources that Fondren offers. In her previous position at the University of Connecticut, she was a liaison/mentor for several departments. There, she made a point of attending graduate school orientations to meet students and deliver a package of information resources for them to use. Qian has a passion for outreach, and hopes to get to know and serve Rice students as well.

Dara Flinn
Archivist/Special Collections Librarian

Preservation Assistant Retires

After 37 years in the preservation services department of Fondren Library, **Helen Gibbs** has retired. She celebrated with colleagues at a farewell party March 4.

Gibbs was hired at Fondren by retiree Sophy Silversteen in 1980 after applying for other jobs in the medical center area. She is a longtime Houstonian, having attended E.O. Smith Junior High and Phyllis Wheatley High School. During her time at Fondren, she was involved in the binding area, where Gibbs said there was always something to do. Among other tasks, she collected current journal issues for binding and both packed binding shipments as they were mailed and checked them as they were returned. More recently, she also worked on digital scanning projects.

In retirement, Gibbs and her husband hope to travel, first to Chicago and then Fort Wayne, Ind., where she has family. Additionally, she hopes to become more involved in a fitness group for senior citizens as well as a gardening group in her neighborhood.

She will miss the people at Fondren and hopes to stay in touch via Facebook. We will miss Gibbs, her quiet determination, steadiness and loyalty to Fondren.

Debra Cosby
Staff Assistant, Technical Services



Who Needs Superheroes? Our Extraordinary Volunteers

At the Woodson Research Center (WRC), we are lucky to have two invaluable longtime volunteers—Alan Bath and Mary Tobin. Bath and Tobin have processed a variety of collections and used their unique expertise to augment archival finding aid description and discoverability at Fondren Library.

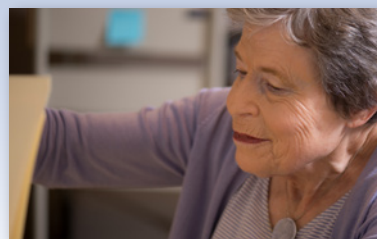


Bath came to Rice University in 1984 after retiring from the Navy. Working with Professor Ira Gruber, he earned a Ph.D. in 1996. His dissertation focused on naval intelligence and espionage and was published in 1998 under the title “Tracking the Axis Enemy: The Triumph of Anglo-American Naval Intelligence.” The following year, he became a volunteer at the WRC. Not only has he inventoried and described many war-related collections, he also has donated a collection of his own books. The Bath Collection covers the topics of military intelligence and espionage with related topics of terrorism, defectors, resistance (World War II) and cryptography.

A Rice alumna and longtime faculty member, Mary Tobin matriculated as a graduate student in English in 1967. She graduated with her doctorate in 1973 and began teaching academic writing in the English Department in 1979, retiring in 2009. Her writing classes were forerunners of the current First-Year Writing-Intensive Seminars. Tobin began to volunteer at WRC in 2011. Her wealth of Rice knowledge has helped her write extensive historical notes for our university archives.

We greatly appreciate the time our volunteers spend with us and our materials.

*Norie Guthrie
Archivist/Special Collections Librarian*



Books That Shaped My World

The William Ward Watkin Professor and dean of the School of Architecture Sarah Whiting doesn't hesitate to tell you that she loves libraries and reading. Libraries have always been important places in her family's life. Her parents, who met at the National Library of France, inspired and nurtured her lifelong love of reading. Fiction, her favorite genre, gave rise to her interest in architecture which, like the books she reads, offers glimpses into other people's lives. Whiting's ongoing interest in understanding people and relationships, whether through reading, observation, interaction or listening, has given her insights that intersect with her chosen career.

What attracted her to architecture is how people live and organize their worlds. Worldwide, we are all individuals who constantly interact and engage with others. Architects organize spaces for human use. They create rooms, hallways, streets that organize groups of people and their movements. To do this well, architects must understand people. The challenge when designing spaces is the ultimate unknowability of others.

Whiting recently spoke at the Friends of Fondren Library's April Books That Shaped My World program. Many of her favorite books explore the complexities of human relationships and circle around this issue of the inability to know others and perhaps even ourselves. The books she discussed included "The Woman Destroyed" by Simone De Beauvoir, a collection of three novellas that explore the lives of three middle-aged women faced with life-changing questions. "One Day a Year" by Christa Wolf is a diary of 40 essays, all written on the same day each year from 1960–2000, recording the details of the author's experiences on those days. "Eat the Document" by Dana Spiotta follows the journey of a 1970s radical forced to live as a fugitive, using new identities and trying to live an unremarkable suburban life under the radar until a close family member discovers the truth 20 years later. "My Struggle," a six-part semifictionalized memoir by Karl Ove Knausgaard, provides a Proustian depiction of everyday life, allowing the reader to occupy the author's life from his point of view. "Tristes Pontiques," translated into contemporary French by the novelist Marie Darrieussecq, is a collection of Ovid's letters to his wife and friends from exile, describing the life of a person unable to have what he wants most in the world but trying to understand his fate and explain it to others.

Each of these books gives insight into how other people think and live and reveal that while we are all different, in many ways we are the same. "The challenge and the beauty of language is this possibility of disappearing into someone else's thoughts and someone else's life," said Whiting. "It's one of the most remarkable gifts that books can give us."

Whiting and her husband, Ron Witte, also an architect and associate professor at Rice, own WW Architecture, which has designed many national and international projects. Whiting received her B.A. from Yale, her Master of Architecture from Princeton University and her Ph.D. from MIT. Before coming to Rice, she taught at Princeton, Harvard, the University of Kentucky, the Illinois Institute of Technology and the University of Florida. She is a frequent lecturer at national and international universities and professional organizations.



Judy Howell

Executive Director, Friends of Fondren Library

Fondren Librarians Take On SXSW



South by Southwest (SXSW), the tech, film and music festival/conference that descends on Austin, Texas, every year, is probably not the first venue that comes to mind for library endeavors. Nevertheless, Fondren Library's Norie Guthrie and I made the trek to the capital city to spread the word about music preservation.

Norie and I are the stewards of Indie Preserves (www.indiepreserves.info), a website which offers practical preservation tips, free of charge, to independent bands and labels who want to preserve their work—whether it's on a hard drive or a cassette tape—for the foreseeable future. Along with Jessica Thompson, a Grammy-nominated restoration and mastering engineer, and Sean Bohrmann, the co-founder of California's cutting-edge record label Burger Records, we took our preservation evangelism to a small, but engaged, crowd of artists, label owners, and casual music fans at SXSW.

Our presentation, "Preservation Tips for DIY Labels & Indie Bands," focused on describing the rationale and need for formal preservation plans, especially in the digital age when someone's entire creative life might exist solely on a hard drive. Thompson addressed the issue from an audio perspective, noting that preserving work may also mean opening the door to monetization down the road. Finally, Bohrmann regaled the crowd with true-life preservation stories of his own label, and how he came to view preservation planning as an undeniable necessity for his life's work.

The sheer scale of SXSW ensures the impossibility of hitting every event and concert at the uberconference, not to mention a major case of the psychological condition known as Fear of Missing Out—after all, we're talking about a lineup of 2,200 performances in over 100 venues (and that doesn't

even include the inevitable "unofficial" concerts and parties). Despite that, we were witness to some amazing events.

Highlights of our trip include:

- The American Epic Sessions: Screened as an entry of the SXSW Film Festival, the American Epic Sessions shows top American artists recording music directly to disc, using the first-ever electrical recording system developed in the 1920s.
- Keynote speaker Tony Visconti: Known primarily for producing David Bowie, Visconti used his speaking time to lament the current state of the music industry by telling a dystopian story. "Don't show them what you think they want," he told the crowd near the end, "be courageous."
- "Goodbye to Your Tunes? Tech's Race to Save Music": Jason Gross, editor of the long-running online magazine Perfect Sound Forever, brought together a cavalcade of experts, including Andy Leach, director of the library and archives of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and NPR music correspondent Ann Powers, to discuss the state of audio preservation in the age of online streaming.
- "I am the Blues": This documentary, also screened in the film festival, journeys through the swamps and juke joints of the Deep South to find the last generation of original blues men (and one woman) still keeping the tradition alive.

Scott Carlson
Metadata Coordinator

The Man Behind the Music: Francis Poulenc

This is the second part of a three-part article about Fondren's recent acquisition of the Lambiotte collection of correspondence, manuscripts and realia linked to the French composer Francis Poulenc. The first part ran in News from Fondren, v. 27, No. 1.



Like Mozart and other great composers, Francis Poulenc occupies an important place in the music of his time, the first half of the 20th century. He was born in Paris Jan. 7, 1899 to Émile Poulenc, a wealthy industrialist whose family came from the mid-Pyrenees region of Aveyron, and Jenny Royer Poulenc, who was his first piano instructor. His father was against a musical education, but the young Poulenc continued to study piano with Spanish pianist Ricardo Viñes. Through Viñes, he met many other composers, including Erik Satie and Manuel de Falla, and also writers André Gide, Paul Éluard and Guillaume Apollinaire. Largely self-taught as a composer, he

made his public debut in Paris in 1917 with a work for flute, clarinet, string quartet, piano and voice, *Rapsodie nègre* (FP 3, 1917)*, which he dedicated to Satie.

During this time, his works were often performed in concerts given at the studio of the painter Émile Lejeune in the Rue Huyghens in Montparnasse, where the works of composers Darius Milhaud, Georges Auric, Arthur Honegger, Germaine Tailleferre and Louis Durey also were performed. Satie referred to them as *Les Nouveaux Jeunes* and before long, the critic Henri Collet dubbed them *Les Six*. They were united by friendship rather than a shared aesthetic and rarely collaborated, but their music was a reaction against the impressionism of composers like Claude Debussy and the romanticism of Richard Wagner. Instead of grandness or sublimity, they depicted the elements of everyday life, such as popular sounds drawn from the cabaret, circus and music hall. The musical style emphasized such traits as brevity and simplicity, irreverence and the use of parody. Above all, *Les Six* was not intended to be a new school of composition or fuel the creation of masterworks.



Poulenc himself had spent childhood summers in the village of Nogent-sur-Marne east of Paris, and later in his youth frequented the Parisian music halls, especially café-concerts and music

halls, which catered to the lower and middle classes, and theaters in the Quartier de la République. There he heard singers such as Maurice Chevalier and Jeanne Bloch (called “la colossale chanteuse”) and their word play and free treatment of text. His *Cocardes* (FP 16, 1919), represented in the Lambiotte collection by a printed, inscribed score, is a wonderful example of the influence of these experiences on the young Poulenc. The three songs are set to poems by Jean Cocteau and dedicated to Auric. Poulenc portrayed the Paris streets as he knew them by using instrumentation for small band, which imitates those from sideshows and the dance halls known as *bals musettes*. The songs are sung in the declamatory style of Chevalier and express the bittersweet nostalgia that is so unique to Poulenc. In fact, Poulenc is considered by many to be the master of the French art song in the 20th century. His extensive output in this genre consists of some 152 songs for voice and piano.

*The FP numbers refer to Carl B. Schmidt's opus numbers in “The Music of Francis Poulenc: A Catalogue” (Oxford University Press, 1995).

Mary Brower
Music Librarian

Note: The photography credit for an illustration in the Poulenc article in the Fall 2015 issue of News from Fondren was inadvertently omitted. The credit should read: Poulenc and his fox terrier. MSS 52, the Frederick and Rose Plaut Papers in the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library of Yale University.

For a complete listing of subject librarians for collection development, please visit:
<https://bit.ly/23Kbyh>.

NEWS from FONDREN

Vol. 25, No. 2 • Spring 2016

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Wedgwood Plate Depicting Fondren Library

Plates showing campus scenes were popular mementos at many college campuses during the 20th century. At Rice, a set of four flower-edged plates was produced by the English firm Wedgwood for Rice's semicentennial celebrations in 1962, depicting well-loved buildings around campus.