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## Whither the Book?

By **Geoffrey C. Orsak**, Dean of School of Engineering

*Do you remember when you first heard the word? Here's my story: I was attending an international academic meeting in 1990 in Yosemite National Park. Because of untimely weather, the conference's hiking expedition was postponed. Fortunately, one of*



**Geoffrey Orsak**

*the attendant luminaries spontaneously organized a special session in which he was going to "demo" this new thing called the World Wide Web. The session was billed as a view into the future — a place full of new bold ideas. Yes, new was in and old was out.*

*Of course, once our popular culture got hold of the Internet, there was no end in sight to the wildly speculative proclamations of its vast social and economic impact. Editorial boards of major newspapers were scrambling to ensure their continued relevance in this new "information age."*

*Wild eyed entrepreneurs even set out to sell dog food with the click of a mouse. And the book, well there were countless obituaries penned in honor of this now seemingly passé romantic institution.*

*While engineers have been remarkably successful in bringing ever more power to the Internet, these past five years have shown that, with all due apologies to Alan Greenspan, there was indeed a great deal of "irrational exuberance" to our early love affair with the Web. So, as it seems, you bibliophiles can now exhale, the book does indeed appear safe for our foreseeable future.*

*Well, wait just a minute. As you may have recently heard, Google just made public the secret details of "Project Ocean," an ambitious effort to digitize millions of volumes of books from five of the world's leading research libraries, including those of Harvard, Stanford, and Oxford. The sum total of most of human thought is to go live and online within the coming years. While*

*continued on page 2*

## Prologue to a renovation: Architects' drawings set stage for library transformation

An extreme makeover is underway at Fondren Library, but unlike the television show, it will take much longer than seven days to complete.

Architects, library staff and board members, faculty, and students are examining the first sets of architectural drawings and visualizing changes that will transform Fondren, Science and Engineering, and DeGolyer libraries into a connected, cohesive library quad.

"We are rethinking everything," says Dean and Director of Central University Libraries Gillian McCombs.

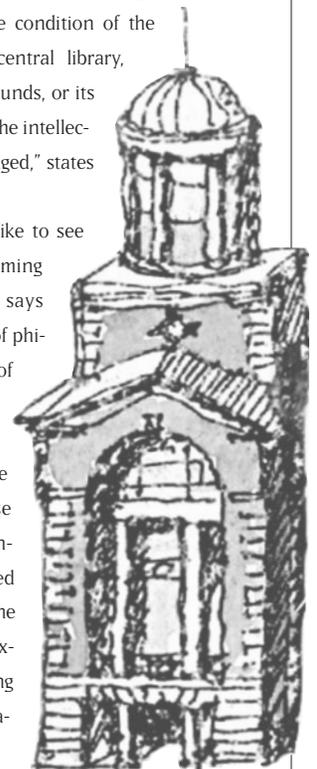
The new plans will make the library more of a central focus on campus, says Michael Lusztig, assistant professor of political science and chair of the Faculty Senate subcommittee on libraries. "We have a get-in and get-out library now," he says.

Students unanimously expressed their support for the project in a resolution passed by the Student Senate last spring, stating their dissatisfaction with the condition of the library's facilities. "A university's central library, more than its sports facilities, its grounds, or its flora, is the true landmark by which the intellectual heart of a university is often judged," states the resolution.

"As a faculty member, I would like to see the library as a place that is welcoming and comfortable for students," says Steve Sverdluk, associate professor of philosophy and a two-year member of the library renovation planning committee.

**The heart of the University** The three main buildings that compose Fondren Library Center will be connected and resources will be organized to be more user- and staff-friendly. The Information Commons will be expanded and the Center for Teaching Excellence will be located near academic resources.

*continued on page 2*



*Prologue to a renovation continued from page 1*

**Study 'round the clock** Library planners are considering designing the entire first floor as a secure, 24-hour study area.

**Historic inspiration** In the 1940s and '50s the Stanley Marcus Reading Room in DeGolyer Library was the primary study area for undergraduate students with its high ceilings, oak-paneled walls, and bas relief ceiling sculptures depicting scenes from classic literature. Now reserved for scholars using special collections, the reading room again will become a student study area.

**Technology trends** Online journals and digitized special collections are only the beginning of changes that technology is bringing to academic libraries, says Carole Wedge, architect and president of Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott. The renovation is designed to be flexible to accommodate changes required by future developments in technology.

**New spaces** The new library will include many "ambiences" for different users, McCombs says. A large, casual information commons and café will be a gathering place. Quiet, no-cell-phone zones for study also are planned. Areas for group and solitary study, exhibits, and a media gallery are included in the preliminary design.

The Center for Teaching Excellence will be located near other academic resources, "a natural blend," says Ron Wetherington, director, Center for Teaching Excellence.

**Climate control** A renovated HVAC system with humidity controls will preserve library resources and create a comfortable climate for library patrons.

**Room to grow** A major portion of this library renovation is expected to be complete when SMU celebrates its centennial in 2011, but the new space must include allowances for future collection growth, McCombs says. Print collections grow by an average of 2 percent each year, and space must be available to accept new special collections, such as the 10,000-volume Stanley Marcus collection recently acquired by DeGolyer Library, she says.

McCombs welcomes input on library plans. To submit ideas on the library renovation, e-mail her at gmcombs@smu.edu or call her at 214-768-2400.

*A preliminary sketch of the library renovation depicts Fondren, Science and Engineering, and DeGolyer libraries as interconnected buildings.*



*Whither the Book? continued from page 1*

*there are still real engineering challenges to be faced, and real copyright issues to be resolved, the successful completion of Project Ocean will change both our notion and our use of libraries and books forever.*

*So to the question at hand – what is to become of "the library" and "the book" in this new era?*

*Simply put, why go to the expense of publishing and marketing the great American novel or spending millions on building great and deep collections if it is just all going to be scanned in for the world to read (at a price yet to be determined)?*

*To me, libraries have always been about more than archiving*

*and cataloging books and monographs. Great libraries like ours, and the people that run and support them, serve to sift out the chatter from higher thought and genuine scholarship. And if we include the anonymous experts hired by the publishing houses to review and edit new books together with the various faculty committees who assist with acquisition decisions - our great university libraries will continue to represent our highest standards in ideas, opinion, culture, and reason.*

*So, yes – the typical "library" of the distant future may yet be nothing more than a computer terminal in the hands of a user, but the great library and the great book will always endure and will always serve as our culture's living repository of the best that the life of the mind has to offer.*

## Railroad artifacts track Western expansion

Historians have long portrayed the Southern Pacific Railroad as a steaming octopus that engulfed everything in its path. A new exhibit from DeGolyer Library's vast railroad collection presents another view of the legendary railroad.

"Southern Pacific Railroad: 'The Road of a Thousand Wonders'" borrows its title from the railroad's 1910 travel slogan. Through one-of-a-kind photographs, rare train models, travel posters, cookbooks, and brochures, the exhibit March 31 through June 10 explains the railroad's role in the development of the American West.

The Southern Pacific Railroad in 1881 became the second transcontinental railroad, the only U.S. railroad built from the west to the east. Routes ran from California to Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Louisiana.

"The Southern Pacific was an extremely aggressive company," says Richard Orsi, emeritus professor of history at

California State University, Hayward. "But that's not the whole story."

Orsi is the author of a new book, *Sunset Limited: Toward a New History of the Southern Pacific Railroad in the American West* (University of California Press, 2005).

Cookbooks, farming guides, and boll weevil brochures in the exhibit demonstrate the railroad's commitment to promoting land settlement by farmers. Early issues of the railroad's *Sunset* magazine and art deco posters in the exhibit promote travel to

Mexico, San Antonio, and Arizona with illustrations by widely-known commercial and fine artists.

"Railroads made travel possible for ordinary people," Orsi says. "Before railroads, travel was difficult and expensive. The Southern Pacific was instrumental in promoting travel to places in the West such as Yosemite and Crater Lake national parks, as well as the Alamo and missions in San Antonio."

Orsi has spent several weeks over the last two years conducting research for his book at DeGolyer. "The Southern Pacific collection at DeGolyer is one of the best in the world," Orsi says. "It has a magnificent photograph collection of images that can't be found anywhere else."

The exhibit includes historic photographs of station agents and women telegraph operators, depots and snow sheds, train wrecks, locomotives such as the *Daylight* and *Collis P. Huntington*,

refrigerator and fruit cars, and scenes photographed from trains.

"The exhibit showcases the incredible depth of our railroad collection," says exhibit curator Anne Peterson, DeGolyer Library photography curator. It appeals to historians as well as model railroad

builders, railroad

collectors, and those who are nostalgic for the grand days of train travel, she says.



# People

**People magazine, Oct. 4, 2004** The cover featured Britney Spears' wedding, but former library staff member Arthiss Kliever was described as a local hero in a one-page article in the magazine. The article featured the neighborhood children's library Kliever and her late husband, Religious Studies Professor Lonnie Kliever, created in their home.

### IN THE NEWS

**Women's Wear Daily, Dec. 10, 2004** The daily newspaper for the retailing industry featured DeGolyer Library's acquisition of the JC Penney Co. archives. Robert Miller's Nov. 14 "Business Day" column in **The Dallas Morning News** as well as the **Fort Worth Star-Telegram** also covered the acquisition and Dec. 9 collection dedication.

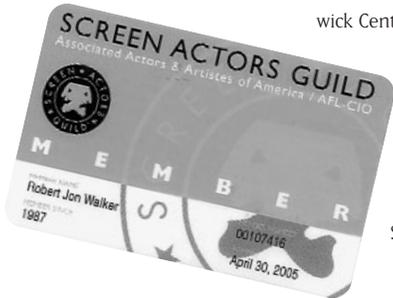
**The Washington Post, Dec. 25, 2004** An article about the Tyler, Texas, Black Film Collection at

Hamon Arts Library appeared in **The Washington Post** on Christmas Day. It also ran in the **Los Angeles Times**, the **Orlando Sentinel**, and the **Chicago Tribune**. The **Tribune** article solved a family mystery for a Chicago reader. After reading in the article about the films' producer, Sack Amusement Enterprises, Charles Lipson contacted Tinsley Silcox, Hamon director, Lipson is a Sack family descendent. Through the article he learned of his relatives' role in producing the historic films.

# The Washington Post

## Actor, producer mentors future filmmakers

Rob Walker has raced bicycles in Europe, acted in television's "Law and Order," and edited award-winning documentaries and short films for the Dallas Video Festival. But some of his greatest success stories can be found in the lives of student workers he has mentored as manager of digital video production for the Norwick Center for Media and Instructional Technology.



Students who land a campus job under Walker's direction earn practical job experience by filming campus speakers, producing training films, and creating spots for the video scoreboard at Gerald J. Ford Stadium.

Janie White ('01) worked with Walker as a production assistant and editor immediately after graduating from SMU. "Rob taught me how to take a production from start to finish, script to screen," says White, who majored in cinema-television. "He's a brilliant writer and comic, and watching him do his magic was inspiring."

Now White is a video producer for the Homeland One First Responder Training Network.

"Students need to have enough hands-on experiences so that working with a camera or at an editing station becomes second nature to them," Walker says.

Problem-solving also becomes second nature to students under Walker's tutelage. "Read the manual" is Rob's favorite answer to questions," White says.

Walker's other student workers have entered positions in advertising, video editing, and television journalism. One landed a coveted spot in graduate film studies at the University of Southern California.

Walker maintains his connections with the entertainment industry. A member of the Screen Actors Guild, he was selected to serve as a nominator for the Guild's awards.



Rob Walker (left) appeared in the 1985 PBS American Playhouse production of "Revolt of Mother."

## Check it out

**ARTstor**, a visual feast of digital images, is now available to SMU faculty, students, and staff. The database includes more than 300,000 images from prehistoric art to the collections at New York's Museum of Modern Art. ARTstor's software enables users to save images and create and deliver presentations. Users can examine artistic detail through zooming and panning features. [www.smu.edu/cul/or](http://www.smu.edu/cul/or).



**The Dallas Morning News Digital Historical Archive** provides full-text access to the newspaper from 1885-1977 and from 1984 to the present. (The gap years have not been made available.) Each page of the newspaper can be viewed in full image or article-by-article. The database is searchable by keyword, date, and topic. [www.smu.edu/cul/or](http://www.smu.edu/cul/or).

## REMEMBER THE LADIES!



Central University Libraries Dean and Director Gillian McCombs and Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

The Remember the Ladies! fund-raising campaign kicked off March 4 with a coffee at the home of Jeanne Tower Cox ('78), a member of the SMU Board of Trustees.

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison is honorary chair of the campaign to fund a full-time archivist for the Archives of Women of the Southwest at DeGolyer Library.

As the first woman elected U.S. senator from Texas, Hutchison is a history-maker in her own right. In addition, she stresses the importance of women in American history in her recent book, *American Heroines: The Spirited Women Who Shaped Our Country* (William Morrow, 2004).

"My great-great-grandmother, Anna Marie Taylor, was part of the Runaway Scrape. Her husband was at Washington-at-the-Brazos when she and her four children under age 7 fled Nacogdoches for Louisiana," Hutchison says. "All four of her children died, but she returned to Nacogdoches and had nine more children. These are the hearty women we owe so much to."

## From Hildegard to Madonna: A notable collection

Medieval music can be a hard sell to 21st-century students. Daring to rock their worlds, however, Associate Professor of Music History Donna Mayer-Martin requires her students to listen to Gregorian chants and the love songs of French troubadours found in the music collection at Hamon Arts Library. But the music must be understood in context to be appreciated, she says.

Gregorian chants were included in church liturgy and were sung as part of a tradition of constant prayer in medieval monasteries, Mayer-Martin says. Troubadours, members of the Southern French nobility, sang about unrequited love. In the 13th century the trouveres of Northern France sang about the Crusades as well as courtly love, she says.

Music history classes introduce students to unexpected library resources, Mayer-Martin says. "Music students often are wary of library assignments. They would rather be in the practice room. I want them to know that the library is an absolute treasure trove of records, cds, and musical scores."

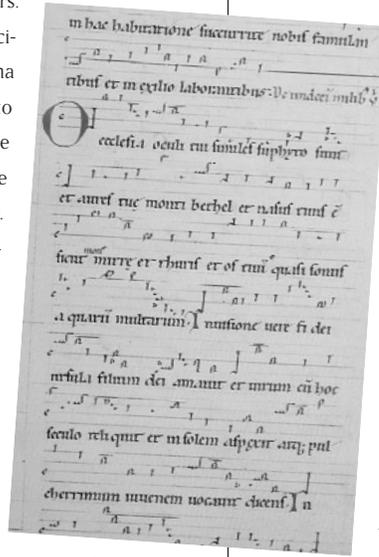
Graduate students who are majoring in music history use Hamon and Bridwell Library facsimiles of medieval manuscripts to analyze *fliegenfluss*, the musical notation used by the Benedictine nun Hildegard of Bingen.

Transcribing music composed by a 12th-century nun into contemporary musical notation is a discipline, says Amanda Marsrow, a graduate student in music history. "Studying the music note-by-note helps you understand the process of composition."

Hildegard's music continues to be part of regular worship by Benedictine nuns in Bingen, Germany, and is available to contemporary listeners on the 1994 compact disc "Visions," performed by Richard Souther.

In addition to medieval music, Mayer-Martin's research interests include, music and society in Paris from 1789 to 1914, women composers, and gender studies in music. As professor-in residence of the SMU-in-Paris program, she conducts much of her research at the Bibliotheque Nationale de France in Paris. Later this year Mayer-Martin will publish a book of 5,000 medieval melodies, every surviving troubadour and trouvère tune of the 12th and 13th centuries.

She also uses Hamon's growing collection on women composers to teach a class for nonmusic majors, "Women and Music: Like a Virgin: From Hildegard to Madonna."



**LISTEN TO THE MUSIC**  
 Music students, brides searching for the perfect wedding song, and opera-lovers are among those who put on the headphones and tune in to the music collection at Hamon Arts Library.

**HAMON LISTENING LAB**  
 21,000 LP recordings  
 9,500 compact disc recordings  
 1,000 performances on video

## Nasher chairs Friends event



Raymond Nasher

Arts patron Raymond Nasher served as honorary chair and hosted a table discussion at Tables of Content, April 2, 2005. His late wife, Patsy, was a founding member of Friends of the SMU Libraries, sponsor of the event. Tables of Content is an evening of dinner and discussion at Meadows Museum. Other table hosts included photographer Carolyn Brown, law professor and baseball expert Paul Rogers, and *Time* magazine Dallas bureau chief Cathy Booth Thomas.

## Welcome new Friends

New members of Friends of the SMU Libraries who have joined as of February 15, 2005.

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Terry Barrett            | Janie McGarr             |
| Richard Berberian        | Nan McGee                |
| Marcia and Frank Cuellar | David Patton             |
| Diann and Phil Garnett   | Liz Petty                |
| Ken Fox                  | Leigh Rogers             |
| Elizabeth and Stan Keith | Jean Maria Saudin        |
| Thomas Leppert           | Rick Shultz              |
| Barbara Lozano           | Robert O. Stroud         |
| John Lunsford            | Joy Wiggins              |
| Cathy Manning            | Margaret and John Yeaman |

## Visit vaudeville through historic films

The black and white film flickers as a tramp accused of murder is pursued through an overgrown forest by bloodhounds and an angry posse in *Tracked by Bloodhounds*, a 1904 William Selig film. The film was a headliner in 1904 and 1905, but all copies were lost until 1993 when a stash of pre-nickelodeon films was discovered in a Sulphur Springs, Texas, home.

Now part of the William G. Jones Film and Video Archive in Hamon Arts Library, *Tracked by Bloodhounds* represents an era when cameras were stationary and actors created motion.

The collection includes panoramic films of the aftermath of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, slapstick comedies, and multi-shot story films from 1898 to 1906 that represent the earliest days of film, before nickel theaters opened.

"These films probably belonged to a traveling showman and would have been shown at carnivals and at traveling exhibits," says Rick

Worland, professor and chair of cinema-television. "They were a curiosity that instantly fascinated audiences."

One- and two-minute films of the destruction of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, rough seas on a Pacific Ocean voyage, and battle scenes from the 1904 Russo-Japanese war first brought moving images from around the world to the urban working class in cities as well as rural populations near country towns.

Audiences also enjoyed slapstick comedy and the earliest examples of special effects.

Because the nitrate film used in early movies was highly volatile and easily decayed, more than half of films made before 1950 are lost, Worland says. Many of the short films in the collection are one-of-a-kind.

The Sulphur Springs films recently were converted to DVD format and can be viewed at Hamon Arts Library. For more information contact Tinsley Silcox at 214-768-1855 or by email at [tsilcox@smu.edu](mailto:tsilcox@smu.edu).



The 12-scene film, "*Tracked by Bloodhounds*," was a 1904 headliner, lost until 1993 when the film was discovered in a Sulphur Springs, Texas, home.



The one-shot comedy, "*A Shocking Accident*," was made on location in 1904.



"*The Maniac Barber*" demonstrates early special effects in an 1899 film when a barber seemingly decapitates his customer to shave his head at a sink.

### GIFT OF HISTORY



Guests at the dedication of the JC Penney archives included Mike Ullman, chief executive officer, JC Penney; Linda Marcus; Mary Frances Wagley, daughter of J.C. Penney; Jay Wagley, grandson of J.C. Penney; Sue Wagley; and Dean and Director of Central University Libraries Gillian McCombs. JC Penney officially transferred its corporate archives to DeGolyer Library at the December 9 ceremony.

FACULTY MEMBERS WILL BE HONORED

FOR THEIR 2004 PUBLISHED AND ARTISTIC WORKS AT

## Faculty Recognition Day

APRIL 21, 3 P.M.

FONDREN LIBRARY CENTER

REMARKS BY PROVOST ROSS C MURFIN,

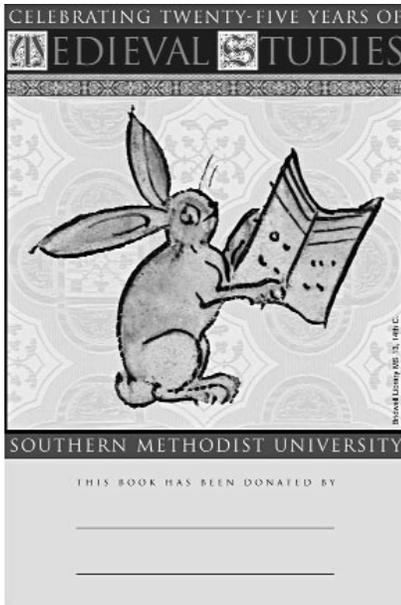
DEAN AND DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

GILLIAN MCCOMBS, AND

FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT CHRISTINE BUCHANAN

## Silver celebration: Medieval Studies expands library collection

A book that belonged to a 12th-century Spanish king is the first library acquisition to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the medieval studies program at SMU.



The Edilan Facsimile of the Florence *Cantigas* Codex is a rare, limited-edition reproduction of a book owned by the king known as Alfonso the Wise, who ruled from 1252 to 1284.

"Alfonso X was a cultured Renaissance man who was an avid book collector," says Pamela Patton, associate professor of art history.

The \$5,000 facsimile has the same scale, color, and texture as the original book, housed at the National Central Library in Florence, Italy. The king died during the book's production, leaving it unfinished. "The incomplete book is a wonderful teaching tool. Some pages are fully illustrated, others have just sketched

out figures — it shows how a 13th-century book was produced."

When the medieval studies faculty discussed the best way to commemorate the program's 25th anniversary, they agreed on something that would benefit students in a significant way.

*When the medieval studies faculty discussed the best way to commemorate the program's 25th anniversary, they agreed on something that would benefit students in a significant way. "We chose books," says Bonnie Wheeler, director of medieval studies and associate professor of English.*

"We chose books," says Bonnie Wheeler, director of medieval studies and associate professor of English. "Improving the medieval studies collection in our libraries will help undergraduate and graduate students in history, English, theology, religious studies, and art history."

Contributions honoring the program's anniversary are being used to purchase medieval studies books, resource materials, and historic manuscripts on subjects ranging from the

Holy Grail to 12th-century Anglo-Norman women. The books will be housed at Fondren, Hamon, and Bridwell libraries.

More than \$70,000 has been contributed to date.

For more information, or to contribute to the Medieval Studies Library Collection contact Bonnie Wheeler at 214-768-2949, bwheeler@smu.edu or Tricia Barnett at 214-768-2691 or tbarnett@smu.edu.

## David Farmer to lead behind-the-scenes Santa Fe and Taos tour

Private tours of galleries, libraries, and museums of Santa Fe and Taos, New Mexico, will be highlights of the Friends of the SMU Libraries' first summer trip to the Land of Enchantment. David Farmer, retired DeGolyer Library director and Taos resident, will lead the July 25-30 tour, which begins with dinner at the Taos residence of Farmer and his wife, Carol.

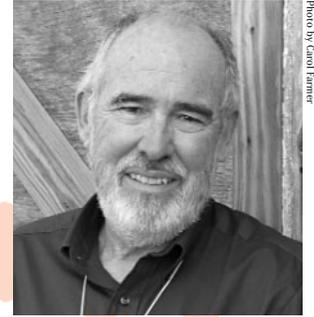


Photo by Carol Farmer

The trip starts in Taos with tours of artist Nicolai

David Farmer

Fechin's home, la Hacienda de las Martinez, and the Millicent Rogers Museum. Travelers will take the high road from Taos to Santa Fe with visits to historic churches and weavers at the Centenella Studio along the way.

The Santa Fe itinerary includes a tour of the Palace of the Governors' historic library



as well as a visit to the private library of Western Americana collector Bob McCubbin. Historian Marc Simmons will lead a tour of the living history museum Rancho de las Golondrinas. Gallery and antiquarian bookstore browsing will round out the trip.

For more information or trip reservations, contact the Friends of the SMU Libraries at 214-768-3225, or visit [www.smu.edu/libraries/friends](http://www.smu.edu/libraries/friends).

## In Memoriam

Louis Catherine Bailey ('24), former Fondren Library director at SMU, died January 9, 2005 at age 100. She joined the library staff in 1927 and retired in 1969, the year she received the Distinguished Alumni Award from SMU. She served as president of the Texas Library Association in 1944. "She recognized the importance of books and reading, which is what librarians at that time did — and she did it better than most," says retired SMU librarian Wilson Snodgrass. "I really thought she was the most remarkable librarian I'd ever met."

**Annotations**

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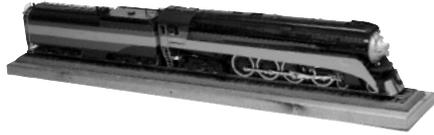
Nancy George

**University Photographer**

Hillsman Jackson

**Events and Exhibits**

- Through April 28 **Dis-Reality of the Southwest**, photography exhibit by Master of Fine Arts student Jeff Junkin, Hamon Arts Library



- March 31 through June 10 **Southern Pacific Railroad: The 'Road of a Thousand Wonders,'**



DeGolyer Library

- Through April 15 **Scholars of Science: Harold Jeskey and Claude Albritton,**

Fondren Library Center

- April 19-July 31 **The Art of the Book: A Centennial Tribute to Stanley Marcus: The Bibliophile,**

Meadows Museum

- April 20 through May 31 **Faculty**

**Works 2004,** Fondren Library Center

- May 2 **Friends of the Libraries annual dinner meeting,** Mercury Grill, 11909 Preston Road, reservations required
- June 30 – September 2 **Two x Two, the Stereograph**

**Collections of Banks McLaurin, Jr.**

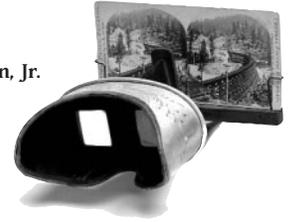
and Robin Stanford, DeGolyer

Library

- September 28-November 19

**Shaped by Water –**

**Photographs by Carol and David Farmer,** Hamon Library



For event and exhibit details contact Judy Searles at [jsearles@smu.edu](mailto:jsearles@smu.edu) or 214-768-7874.

**Library Contacts**

DeGolyer Library/Special Collections	214-768-2253
Fondren Library – general library information	214-768-7378
Fondren Library	
Information Desk	214-768-2326
Circulation/Reserve	214-768-2329
Government Information Resources	214-768-2331
Friends of the SMU Libraries	214-768-3225
Hamon Arts Library	214-768-2894
Norwick Center for Media and	214-768-3199
Instructional Technology	

**Web site**

Central University Libraries [www.smu.edu/cul/](http://www.smu.edu/cul/)



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University

**INSIDE**

Riding the rails

Earliest films

Sojourn to Santa Fe, Taos

SMU will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, or veteran status. SMU's commitment to equal opportunity includes nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.



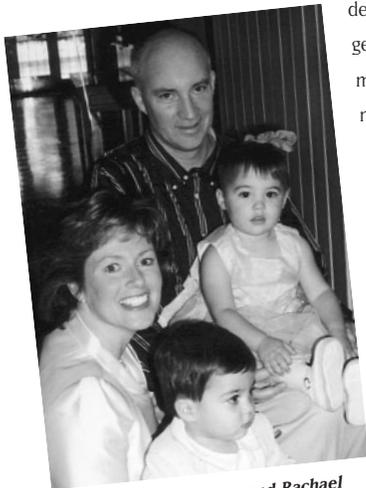
## From mom to medical researcher

The physician's assistant program at UT Southwestern only accepts 40 students from 500 applicants each year. Maureen Lupton intends to be one of those students. But juggling the demands of raising 4-year-old twins, studying for a genetics class, and keeping up with changes in medical research is a challenge to the critical care nurse and community volunteer.

When it's time to review anatomy, physiology, pathology, and pharmacology Lupton slips away to Fondren Library where she reserves a study room for late night review or signs on to subscription medical Web sites and databases only available through the library.

As a returning student Lupton draws inspiration from the academic library setting. "I enjoy the stimulating learning environment. It helps me keep in step with our culture by seeing students of many nationalities, backgrounds, and interests," she says.

Lupton's work is paying off. She was one of 100 applicants selected for a behavioral interview and awaits word on her acceptance.



Maureen, Tav, Andrew, and Rachael Lupton. The Luptons are Friends of the SMU Libraries.

## A journalist's best friend

When preparing for a story about the fifth anniversary of the Texas A&M bonfire tragedy, Associated Press reporter Holly Hacker leafed through old Aggie yearbooks at an A&M library to better understand the now defunct tradition.

Hacker relies on academic libraries to cover higher education for the international news service. She discovered their benefits while earning a Master's degree from the University of Missouri's School of Journalism. "In graduate school I learned to use scholarly databases found only at the library," she says. Hacker also uses special collections and past newspapers.

Personal interviews provide the qualitative parts of articles, Hacker says, but library research provides background as well as current statistics. Libraries help reporters create better stories, says Kristin Holland, *Dallas Morning News* reporter. Research helps reporters put stories in context and prepare for interviews, she says. Holly Hacker and Kristin Holland are members of Friends of the SMU Libraries.

## Check it out: A world of opportunities

Travel? Opera? Avant garde films? SMU libraries are home to resources for many interests. Some resources are expected, such as the libraries' collection of 1 million books, other resources may come as a surprise, such as the complete collection of Alfred Hitchcock's films. Friends members have these resources at their fingertips.

**Maps of the world** A Dallas woman searched for 20 years to find a historic map to prove her family's ownership of a farm south of Dallas. She claimed the land after finding her great-grandfather's name on the 105-year old *Sam Street's Map* of Dallas County in the Foscue Map Collection in the Science and Engineering Library. *Sam Street's Map* is one of 250,000 historic, topographic, political, navigation, and military maps in the collection, which is open to browsers.

**Parlez-vous francais?** Sharpen foreign language skills with Pimsleur Program language tapes available for checkout. Learn Mandarin, Russian, Italian, French, or Spanish. Skim foreign language daily papers in the reading room — *Die Zeit*, *Le Monde*, *People's Daily*, or *Korean Journal*.

**Hard-to-find films** German, Russian, and Asian cinema, Hollywood classics, and thousands of documentaries are among

the 11,000 films in the Norwick Center for Media and Instructional Technology.

**Library concerts** Opera-lovers can view DVDs of Metropolitan Opera performances of the last 30 years in the Hamon Arts Library audiovisual center. Landmark performances by Leontyne Price, Placido Domingo, and Maria Callas are included in the collection. Hamon Arts Library is one of five libraries nationwide chosen to house the collection.

Members of the Friends of the SMU Libraries at the \$60

level and above have borrowing privileges at Fondren Library, the Science and Engineering Library, the Norwick Center for Media and Instructional Technology, and Hamon Arts Library.



The Metropolitan Opera collection includes landmark performances by soprano Joan Sutherland.

## Library sets the stage

When the production manager for the Dallas Theater Center needs vintage furniture for a set, he heads to antique shops near Dallas. Hardware for set riggings is found on the farm aisle at Elliot's Hardware. But when Richard Hamburger, artistic director of the Dallas Theater Center, looks for inspiration, he shops the SMU Libraries.

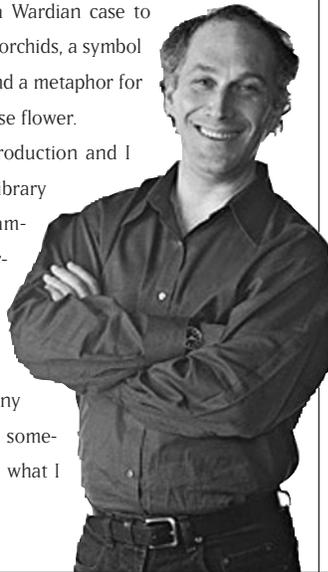
Hamburger checks out stacks of library books before the first production meeting for each play. The production team pours through the books and analyzes the literature, history, social customs, clothing, visual art, and architecture of the play's period.

"I do a tremendous amount of reading before we begin a production," Hamburger says. In fact, the hours of research that take place long before the first audition are his favorite part of his job.

Library resources inspired key props for the theater's spring 2005 production of "My Fair Lady," he says.

A book with a vintage photograph of a Wardian case — an elaborate indoor greenhouse — inspired the scenery for one of the play's final scenes when Eliza visits Professor Higgins' eccentric mother. The stage crew built a Wardian case to anchor the set and filled it with orchids, a symbol of Mrs. Higgins' eccentricities and a metaphor for Eliza, Professor Higgins' hothouse flower.

"When I'm working on a production and I get stumped, I go to Fondren Library and wander the stacks," Hamburger says. "There's a difference between looking up something in the stacks and letting your imagination roam to find the unexpected. So many times I've left the library with something completely different than what I was looking for."



## Tantalizing conversations



Discuss sculpture with art collector Raymond Nasher, talk politics with former Dallas mayor Ron Kirk, or compare stories with KERA radio host Marla Crockett. At Tables of Content, an annual Friends of the SMU Libraries event, engaging hosts like these lead dinner guests in an evening of conversation.

"It's a very vibrant evening," says Doug Newby, real estate broker and Friends member. "The hosts encourage participation as equals. The people who attend are fascinating as well with broad interests or accomplishments in their own rights."

Now in its sixth year, Tables of Content is planned each spring as an intimate event, with just 14 hosts and tables of eight guests at a catered dinner and reception at the Meadows Museum, says Alycen Cuellar, director of the Friends. Friends members and former hosts and participants are invited to the event, which has sold out every year. Many table hosts return as guests, a testament to the event's success, Cuellar says.

### Past and current Tables of Content hosts include the following:

**Jane Roberts Wood**, author of *The Train to Estelline* trilogy and *Roseborough*

**Elizabeth Forsythe Hailey**, author of *A Woman of Independent Means*

**Mary Vernon**, SMU professor of art

**Kevin and Cheryl Vogel**, owners of Valley House art gallery

**Glenna Goodacre**, sculptor

**Ellen Pryor**, professor, Dedman School of Law

**Carolyn Brown**, photographer

## BE A THINKER: JOIN THE FRIENDS

**Borrowing privileges** Enjoy access to the largest private collection of materials in the Southwest — books, periodicals, and thousands of Internet resources only accessible from on-site library computers. Join the Friends at the \$60 level and receive borrowing privileges at Fondren Library as well as the arts, science, and media libraries.

**Resources and research** Geologists, novelists, music-lovers, small business owners, realtors, lawyers, inventors, job seekers, and high school students needing college level resources are among those who benefit from the SMU libraries and Friends membership.

**Food for the mind** Book signings, travel, lectures, exhibit previews, and an annual unique gala event are among the fare offered to Friends members.

**Support the SMU libraries** Friends memberships support library resources, technology, and special collections. For more information call 214-768-3225 or to join online visit [smu.edu/libraries/friends](http://smu.edu/libraries/friends).



Penny Tower Cook ('76), Richard Davis, and Jeanne Tower Cox ('78) at a coffee benefiting the Archives of Women of the Southwest at DeGolyer Library.