

BROWSING

CELEBRATING A FONDREN LIBRARY MILESTONE

All eyes will be on the “heart of the University” as the inaugural Founders’ Day Weekend of SMU’s second century begins with a special event honoring donors to the renovations of Fondren Library. The transformation will be unveiled in two stages: a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by President R. Gerald Turner and the SMU Board of Trustees, followed by an open house hosted by Gillian M. McCombs, Dean and Director, Central University Libraries (CUL), on April 15; and a student-centered celebration in September.

University community members and campus visitors will have an opportunity to explore three spectacular spaces on Founders’ Day:

“This is truly a celebratory day for the libraries and we are so grateful to our donors and supporters who have been with us every step of the way. It is the perfect project to usher in SMU’s second century, honoring the past with the restoration of the reading room to its original iconic space, and looking to the future with the creation of a 21st century learning commons and other spaces that support new ways of learning and discovery.”

- Dean Gillian M. McCombs

Fondren Library Foyer

The historic foyer provides primary access to the iconic Fondren Centennial Reading Room, Hillcrest Foundation Exhibit Hall and Texana Room, all located on the main level of the original structure, built in 1940.

Fondren Centennial Reading Room

The centerpiece of the Fondren Library Center renovation is the restoration of the reading room to its former grandeur, made possible by the generosity of The Fondren Foundation.

Hillcrest Foundation Exhibit Hall

The premier exhibition space for SMU’s special collections, housed in DeGolyer Library, is a modern, spacious venue that will draw hundreds of visitors each year.

To commemorate the opening, the staff of DeGolyer Library has prepared “Books, Buildings and Benefactors,” an exhibition highlighting some of the signature gifts that exemplify the richness and variety of the libraries’ collections. On display will be rare books, manuscripts, photographs, prints and ephemera.

Three additional key spaces will be acknowledged on Founders’ Day while work on them continues through the summer during the final phase of construction:

Prothro Learning Commons

Hoblitzelle Foundation chose to honor one of our greatest University citizens, Caren H. Prothro, in the space that is central to the pursuit of knowledge and innovative academic endeavors in the library.

Gillian M. McCombs Special Collections Reading Room

Located on the third floor of the original Fondren Library building, the beautifully appointed space for study and research has been named by Caren Prothro and the Vin and Caren Prothro Foundation in honor of CUL’s dean and director.

Collaborative Commons and Starbucks® Café

This expansive area with places for individual and group study will be accessed directly from the main quad and the Laura Bush Promenade. The Starbucks® Café will attract students, faculty and staff from across the campus.

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RENOVATION DIARY: COLLABORATION AND CAMARADERIE

As the Fondren Library Center (FLC) renovation moves closer to completion, *Browsing Forward* asked Rob Walker, Central University Libraries (CUL) director of renovation, and Devonne Washington, facilities manager, for a glimpse of their work on the front lines of the project.

Rob Walker, the conduit

Having earned the title of “serial renovator” after years of designing and remodeling his home, Walker segued naturally into his role as renovation director. His knowledge of the library, accumulated over 15 years on staff, provides insight and perspective as the transformation progresses, while he relies on experience in creating and manipulating construction drawings to better express library needs to the architects.

“I have been directly involved in the design of the new help desk area, the Prothro Learning Commons classrooms, the new print/copy/scan room, the catering area in Fondren West, the security detection and audio visual systems, the Gillian M. McCombs Special Collections Reading Room, staff furniture, and the layout of the shelving for the entire library facility,” he explains. “I also help direct the staff moves.”



No day is typical for the Central University Libraries' renovation wranglers, Devonne Washington (left) and Rob Walker. They are checking on progress in the Fondren Library foyer.

“The only thing typical about my days are that they are never typical,” she says. Outfitted with her “tremendously large set of keys,” a notebook that is her constant companion and a pink hard hat, she begins her rounds. She examines the facility, jotting down any issues in her notebook; submits and follows up on building work orders; checks in with the construction crew and Facility Services to verify progress of ongoing work; answers myriad emails; and, of course, attends meetings.

He looks for opportunities to “salvage as much of the original fabric of the building as is reasonably possible. Some of the original elements, like quartersawn oak with medullary rays and the shellstone from the Fondren West foyer, are simply gorgeous.”

Walker calls himself a conduit between the library administration and construction team.

“I am just one spoke on a wheel of talented and dedicated people working hard to make this project succeed,” he says, “including the library administration and staff led by Dean McCombs; our SMU project manager, Jeremy Tyson; our facilities manager, Devonne Washington; and our construction partner, Vaughn Construction. Without these folks, I wouldn't be able to effectively serve the library.”

Devonne Washington, the choreographer

Washington holds a degree in Computer Information Systems and has developed geological software in Alaska, tested guided missiles for Raytheon, and is a self-proclaimed “paper nerd,” who formerly owned an invitation business. She arrived at CUL in 2014 and hit the ground running when preparations began for the renovation last year.

“My responsibilities are many, but my focus is simple – take care of the library,” she says. “Being a facilities manager during this renovation involves working closely with a community of people that includes the construction crew and their dedicated tradesmen and women, architects, engineers, project managers, designers, an incredibly patient library staff and a phenomenal Facility Services team. It is remarkable to witness all of these areas coming together for one purpose. I call it a well-orchestrated dance that I am grateful to have the privilege of being a part of.”

LUNCH WITH FREE BOOKS ON THE SIDE

Members of the campus community can grab a bite for lunch and a book to go, thanks to the Little Library offered by Central University Libraries (CUL).

Twice a month, the SMU edition of the global Little Free Library phenomenon provides a wide variety of reading material, from best-selling paperbacks to serious literature, free for the taking.

**“I found a keeper
– a book on
women and
artists. I’m a
fan already!”**

– *Jacqueline Burack '18, dance
and human rights major*

“We started our version last spring to create buzz about libraries and books,” explains Tyeson Seale, CUL outreach coordinator and co-chair of the campus engagement committee, which initiated the program.

The Little Library is in operation during the first full week of each month, on Tuesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. To take advantage of peak foot traffic, Seale positions the Little Library book cart near the visiting food trucks parked in front of the flagpole on Bishop Boulevard.

“It’s easy to spot the book cart because it’s decorated with two throwback posters from the 1980s American Library Association’s READ

campaign,” Seale says. “People seem to get a kick out of those posters. They remember the campaign from when they were in elementary, middle or high school.”

Students often pose for selfies with the images of Sean Connery and Nicholas Cage, which pop up on Instagram and Twitter during Little Library days.

Approximately 70 to 80 SMU students, faculty and staff visit each month, with numbers rising as word spreads. “It would be nice to see the CUL Little Library grow and maybe have a permanent structure one day,” says Seale. “But for now, you can find me and the book cart next to the food trucks twice a month.”



Jacqueline Burack '18 immediately found a book she couldn't resist at the CUL's Little Free Library.

The vintage Nicholas Cage poster and intriguing titles gain students' attention.



REDISCOVERING AFRICAN-AMERICAN FILMS

The Blood of Jesus, a 1941 African-American salvation drama that is part of the G. William Jones Film and Video Collection at Hamon Arts Library, is included in *The Pioneers of African-American Cinema*, a landmark collection of DVDs paying tribute to early movies made by and for African Americans. The deluxe five-disc set produced by Kino Lorber is a flagship project of the Film Preservation and Restoration Initiative launched by Kickstarter, a global crowdfunding platform. The team behind the project includes curators Jacqueline Stewart and Charles Musser, executive producer Paul D. Miller, a.k.a. DJ Spooky, and producer Bret Wood. The collection is scheduled for release in late June and will be accompanied by an 80-page booklet of essays and notes. The Film Forum in New York City hosted special screenings in February and March of *The Blood of Jesus* and other films, which have been newly mastered in high definition. Films also will be shown in Seattle, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. Shot in Texas on a shoestring budget, *The Blood of Jesus* was the first feature by writer-director Spencer Williams, later a star of TV's *Amos 'n' Andy*. The movie was named by the Library of Congress to the National Film Registry in 1991.

A still image from The Blood of Jesus, G. William Jones Film and Video Collection, Hamon Arts Library

BOLD AND BIG-HEARTED



In *Saint Mazie*, author Jami Attenberg masterfully weaves fact and fiction in a novel that brings the forgotten Mazie Phillips Gordon back to life. Attenberg talked about her work and signed copies of her novel at a luncheon hosted by Friends of the SMU Libraries on campus in November. Drawing from a 1940 *New Yorker* profile, she adds her own fresh spin on the story of the Jazz Age party girl who winds up selling tickets at a Bowery movie theater and helping out the needy during the Great Depression. The *Los Angeles Times* calls Attenberg's book "a winning novel and lovely tribute." *Saint Mazie*, her fifth book, will be released in Italian, French and German this year. Her next novel, *All Grown Up*, is slated for publication in 2017.

NEW PROVOST AMONG TOC TABLE HOSTS

Steven C. Currall, new SMU Provost and vice president for academic affairs, will be among the hosts leading lively conversations over dinner at Tables of Content.

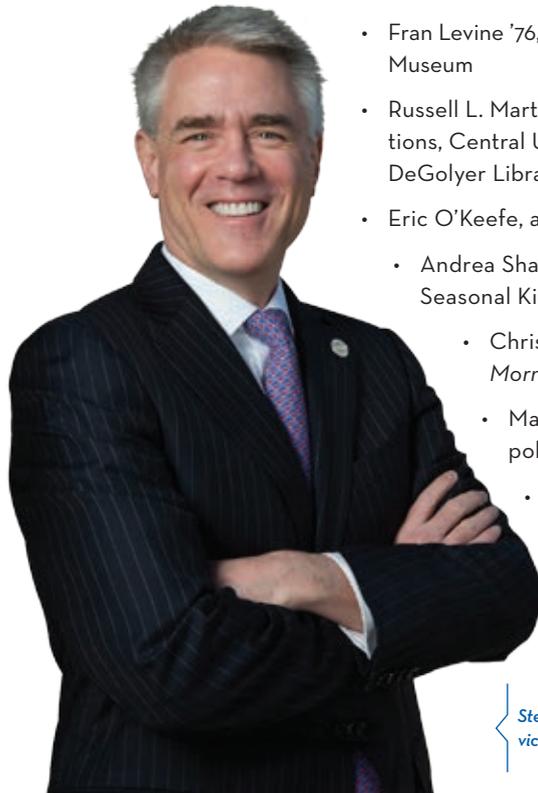
Currall, a psychological scientist whose record of academic leadership includes achievements at Rice University, University College London and the University of California at Davis, became SMU's chief academic officer on January 1.

Other table hosts include:

- Carlton Adams '16, SMU student body president, and Lindalyn Adams '52, civic leader (joint table)
- Karen Blumenthal, journalist and author
- Greg Brownderville, associate professor of English, and Willard Spiegelman, Hughes Professor of English, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, and editor-in-chief of *Southwest Review* (joint table)
- Larry Faulkner, president emeritus, The University of Texas at Austin
- Jeff Gordon, film historian
- Andrew Graybill, professor and chair, William P. Clements Department of History, and co-director, William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies, Dedman College
- John Harper '68, cardiologist and co-founder of Literature + Medicine Conference
- Sam Holland, Dean, Meadows School of the Arts, and Algur H. Meadows Chair and Professor of Music
- Philip Jabour, associate vice president and University architect, SMU Office of Facilities Planning and Management
- William B. Lawrence, Dean, Perkins School of Theology
- Fran Levine '76, president and CEO, Missouri History Museum
- Russell L. Martin '78, '86, Assistant Dean for Collections, Central University Libraries, and Director, DeGolyer Library
- Eric O'Keefe, author, editor and journalist
- Andrea Shackelford '07, executive chef, Harvest Seasonal Kitchen
- Chris Vognar, culture critic, *The Dallas Morning News*
- Matthew Wilson, associate professor of political science, Dedman College
 - Laura Wilson, photographer
 - Jessie Zarazaga, program director, Initiative for Spatial Literacy, Central University Libraries

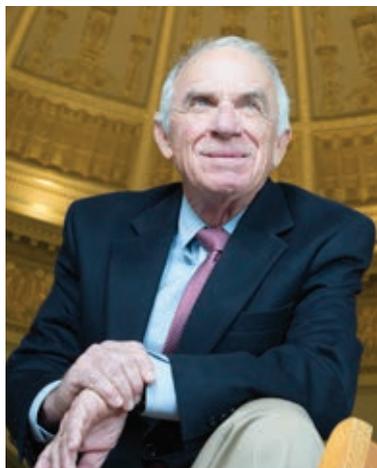


Toni Barksdale Terry '53 and Marshall Terry '53, '54 are honorary chairs of Tables of Content.



Steven C. Currall, new SMU Provost and vice president for academic affairs

DARWIN PAYNE: AUTHOR, HISTORIAN AND LITERATI AWARD WINNER



Darwin Payne

Known for his books chronicling Dallas history and the people who shaped it, journalist and historian Darwin Payne '68 will be honored as the seventh annual Literati Award recipient at Tables of Content on April 30.

"As SMU embarks on the next 100 years, there seemed no one more fitting to receive the Literati Award than SMU Centennial Historian Darwin Payne," says Amy Carver '94, director, Friends of the SMU Libraries. "The award criteria states, in part, that recipients must 'have had a significant impact on culture and the community through their work,' and there is no doubt that Darwin Payne fits the bill perfectly."

According to Robert Buckner, '81, assistant to the vice president for strategic affairs at SMU, "The Second Century Celebration Organizing Committee, chaired by SMU Trustees Ruth Altshuler and Carl Sewell, asked DeGolyer Library to commission an independent and scholarly centennial history to coincide with the commemoration. Darwin was chosen among other candidates because he is a highly regarded former SMU faculty member, historian and author of several books on the history of Dallas and its citizens.

"Funds for the five-year appointment of a centennial historian and the publication and distribution of the book were provided by the committee and by Hoblitzelle Foundation of Dallas," he adds.

Payne, who taught at SMU for more than 30 years and is professor *emeritus* of communications, enjoyed a storied career in journalism before joining the University.

He has written biographies of J. Erik Jonsson (DeGolyer Library, 2014) and other newsmakers. His other titles include a groundbreaking history of the civil rights movement in Dallas and a history of SMU Athletics.

Payne has spent the last five years focusing on a topic that is close to his heart: SMU. In *100 Years on the Hilltop: The Centennial History of Southern Methodist University*, he paints a portrait of an institution that has lived up to the bold vision of its founders to become one of the nation's top universities. He will sign copies of the book, published by DeGolyer Library, at the Fondren Library open house on April 15.

While researching the project, Payne set up an office in DeGolyer Library to be near the SMU Archives. Working closely with SMU Archivist Joan Gosnell, he mined a trove of historical materials collected over a century, including the papers of administrators and faculty members, minutes from the meetings of the board of trustees, annual reports, yearbooks, student newspapers, magazine articles, news releases, academic catalogs, and various other documents and secondary sources. He also had access to oral history interviews and conducted many of his own interviews.

"The SMU Archives were essential for me, as they would be for anyone writing such a history," he says. "I was frequently surprised, and I think readers of the book also will be surprised, too. For example, few people know that SMU had a medical school in Dallas. It closed before today's campus opened in 1915."

EARLE LABOR'S THE FAR MUSIC

Earle Labor earned international recognition for his comprehensive exploration of the life and work of novelist Jack London, including an award-winning biography, *Jack London: An American Life*. In his newest book, *The Far Music*, the scholar depicts the "golden age" of SMU and a special time in American culture.

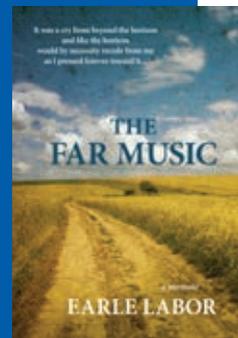
The release of his captivating memoir, published by DeGolyer Library, will coincide with Tables of Content on April 30 and will be the topic of discussion at a table hosted by Russell L. Martin '78, '86, Assistant Dean for Collections, Central University Libraries, and Director, DeGolyer Library.

The Far Music covers what Labor calls "the Era of Bright Expectations." "I'm talking about the years from 1945 to 1950," he writes. "There was nothing like them before and there would be nothing like them afterwards."

Attending SMU on an academic scholarship, he encountered a campus transformed by an influx of World War II veterans. With fellow English major P. B. "Pink" Lindsey, a former combat infantryman at SMU on the GI Bill, Labor took to the open road, chasing crop harvests from Canada to the Corn Belt. Along the way they encountered colorful characters and experienced the growing pains of post-war America.

"You'll feel like you're on the road with him, longing for days gone by," writes Judy Christie of *The Shreveport Times*.

Labor received the Edgar A. DeWitt Achievement Award as SMU's Outstanding Senior Man in 1949. He went on to achieve his dream of becoming a college professor. Labor, *Emeritus Professor of American Literature* at Centenary College of Louisiana, started teaching there in 1955.



IN THE SPOTLIGHT: TEXAS ARTISTS DIGITAL COLLECTION



Untitled from the Caddo Sketchbook ca. 1950s-1970s, by DeForrest Judd, Bywaters Special Collections, Hamon Arts Library

OCLC.org, a global cooperative of academic and public libraries, selected the *Texas Artists: Paintings, Sculpture, and Works on Paper* digital collection as one of its CONTENTdm featured collections in November.

Each month OCLC.org highlights several collections chosen from thousands of projects that use CONTENTdm digital collection management software. *Texas Artists* contains 1,804 digitized works of art and deploys CONTENTdm to display files and related metadata.

First published in 2010, *Texas Artists* brought together holdings from SMU's Jerry Bywaters Special Collections, the Dallas Museum of Art and the Dallas Public Library's Texas/Dallas History & Archives Division and Fine Books Division. Since then, the Meadows Museum and the Harry Ransom Center at The University of Texas at Austin have joined the collaboration.

The digital collection has been used in SMU art history classes, as well as by scholars throughout the country.

From 2009 to 2011, the *Texas Artists* project was supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) as part

of TSLAC's Train to Share program, which fosters development of cooperative, regional digital collections focusing on Texas.



Windy Day, 1940, by Charles Bowling, Bywaters Special Collections, Hamon Arts Library

ART HISTORIAN TRAVELS FULL CIRCLE

The last time Rebecca Quinn Teresi '11 was on campus, she had just completed a triple major in art history, French and Spanish and received the Weil Undergraduate Research Award for her use of SMU libraries' resources in writing her art history honors thesis. From SMU, Teresi entered the art history Ph.D. program at Johns Hopkins University as one of only five students nationwide admitted with five years of full funding. Now completing her doctoral dissertation, she has returned to the University as the Meadows/Kress/Prado Curatorial Fellow at the Meadows Museum.



Rebecca Quinn Teresi '11

"I'm thrilled and honored to be back at SMU," Teresi says. "I started my fellowship in the fall, and since then, I've gained practical and diverse experience researching potential acquisitions and the permanent collection, as well as working on exhibitions, installations and loans. I've also had the chance to give a number of tours, talks and presentations."

A highlight of her fellowship will be a six-week stint at the Prado Museum in Madrid, Spain this spring.

"Since I specialize in Spanish art, being at the Meadows and the Prado are relevant to my field of study. It's why I'm here and part of the appeal of the fellowship," she says.

It has been "a particular treat" to work at a small, focused institution like the Meadows, she says. "I'm able to witness and participate in a broad range of museum work not limited to curatorial affairs. The staff at the Meadows is not only knowledgeable, but also very generous with their time and expertise."

Meadows Museum Director Mark Roglán praises Teresi's contributions. "Rebecca's skill at research has been a valuable asset to the Meadows Museum," he says. "Thanks to the support of many donors, the museum is actively acquiring new works of art, and the Meadows/Kress/Prado Fellow plays a very important role in that process, investigat-

ing such things as provenance and authenticity, the work's place within the artist's oeuvre, and how it relates to both our collection and others."

As a researcher, Teresi appreciates the vast resources provided by SMU's libraries.

"I've made good use of most of the libraries on campus, both during my undergraduate years and now as a fellow," she says. "I also rely on the convenient Interlibrary Loan system, which I've used frequently.

"I've found the library staff to be just as helpful and friendly as I remembered," she adds. "They also are very receptive to acquiring new materials related to research on early modern Spain to strengthen the existing collection."

MUCH LOVE, HARPER

"You will never know the delicious cool sanity of your prose because you just write it, you don't wallow in it as I do." Harper Lee penned those words to Horton Foote on June 26, 1999, more than 30 years into a friendship that started when he wrote the Oscar-winning screenplay based on her literary classic, *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Rare correspondence from Lee is among the treasures included in the Horton Foote papers, acquired by the DeGolyer Library in 1991.

When Lee died on February 19, DeGolyer Director Russell L. Martin and Cynthia Franco, special collections librarian who curates the papers, helped local media paint a more complete picture of the renowned novelist, who shied away from publicity. The letters

- including a three-page typed missive from Lee to Oprah Winfrey, written in 2006 - were published by *The Dallas Morning News* online, along with a video of Franco reading Lee's words. CBS 11 News also mentioned the letters in its coverage of the writer's passing.



Horton Foote, Harper Lee and director Robert Mulligan at the screening of *To Kill a Mockingbird* in 1962. Photo from the Horton Foote papers, DeGolyer Library.

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is published twice a year by the Central University Libraries, which retains the right to determine editorial content and manner of presentation. The opinions expressed in *Browsing Forward* do not necessarily reflect official University policy. Letters and comments welcome.

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THAT DAY WITH A PHOTOGRAPHY LEGEND

An upended stunt rider's horse, a Hutterite woman standing in a wheat field and elaborately decked-out debutantes are among the mesmerizing images created by Laura Wilson and featured in her new book, *That Day: Pictures in the American West*. Published in collaboration with the Clements Center for Southwest Studies and Yale University Press, the coffee table book contains more than 100 pictures shot by the internationally renowned photographer over 35 years. Wilson (center), shown with Dean Gillian M. McCombs,



Central University Libraries, and Andrew Graybill, SMU History Chair and co-director of the Clements Center, talked about her work and signed copies of her book at a campus event co-sponsored by Friends of the SMU Libraries and the Clements Center on December 2. The publication coincided with *That Day: Laura Wilson*, an exhibition of her photographs at the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth. Graybill says the book "really captures the West in all its beauty as well as all its brutality." That dichotomy inspired the artist. "I think it's important to document these points in time," Wilson says. "How these people lived and worked — each person is unusual in his or her own way. They're so removed from our conventional, urban lives." Wilson will serve as a table host at Tables of Content on April 30 (see page 4).