

Fall 2020

# SMU LIBRARIES Newsletter



HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY

*Colophon Turns 50 | Page 8*



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## Letter From the Dean

**Back in March, as what would become known as a pandemic began, I started daily email updates to the SMU Libraries staff.** The updates are in my own voice. Often conversational and always with the intent of being informational and upbeat, they are a record of my thinking and responses to the general events, questions and uncertainty that surrounded us. The frequency of updates moved to twice a week in May and once a week in July, and continue on today.

I recently read through the emails as one would a diary. Upon reflection, as an information professional, one could argue I should have expected my words to be a record of events, to mark the progress from normal to a “new normal.” What I see is an attempt to lead through uncertainty, plan for the unknown, and grapple with the racial upheaval that further transformed and shaped our approach to librarianship and its relationship to inclusive practices. I see an organization of professionals dedicated to the well-being and success of the SMU community, all the while managing the upside-down world of personal responsibilities and health concerns.

So how do you library during a pandemic and time of social change?

In these pages you will see how we did just that. The SMU Libraries never closed. We never stopped shaping and reshaping services to meet the changing needs of our staff and users (Page 2). We continued our commitment to collecting new stories and significant collections in the form of documenting the Class of COVID (Page 6) and accessioning the Jack London collection (Page 5). We welcomed a new development officer (Page 12) and lost good friends (Page 13). The Friends of the SMU Libraries turned 50 in September (Page 8) and only get better year after year. Our unique collections and those of local artists were featured in exhibits near (Page 11) and far (Page 10) and everywhere online (Page 15). While marking 100 years since the 19th Amendment, we engaged with current struggles for equality (Page 14) by providing reading lists for further explorations and education.

This is how you library during a pandemic. The regular email updates recorded a journey that began with no map or known destination. Instead of losing our way, we doubled down, cared for each other, lent a hand to our community, guided personal growth, and continued on our mission to directly impact the success of SMU's academic, research and creative aspirations.

This year has been like none other in my life, or likely, yours. While 2020 fades and we anticipate 2021, I hope you will join me in celebrating the many achievements documented in these pages.

**Holly Jeffcoat**  
*Dean of SMU Libraries*





# How to Library in a Pandemic

In March, COVID-19 struck Dallas, forcing SMU to move to remote instruction, but the libraries kept Mustangs learning and teaching. Library staff rallied to provide critical services, supply research materials and assist students and faculty with their academic needs. In many ways, the SMU Libraries were uniquely prepared for this situation.

“We’re already in a world where we provide databases to search, online articles and online books. We were already set up to provide research services like reference chat, so people could talk to or Zoom with a librarian. We just ramped it all up,” said Elizabeth Killingsworth, associate dean of SMU Libraries and director of Fondren Library. Students and faculty working at home could easily reach out online to ask an SMU librarian for help, and thus the use of library chat services boomed during the pandemic.

The libraries also expanded their Interlibrary Loan services (ILL) and implemented virtual workshops to help students with a range of topics from “Researching in the Humanities” to “Research Your Job Interview.” Canvas, the learning platform used by SMU, also got some support from the librarians, who created Canvas modules for faculty to upload into their Canvas courses. Topics such as “Writing with Sources,” “Searching for Information Online” or “Evaluating News Media” served undergraduate and graduate students alike. For those individuals who wanted to check out books during the quarantine, SMU Libraries

had them covered, too. Starting in June, the libraries offered curbside pickup, wherein a person could reserve a book online, pick a time and library location and a librarian would place the item safely in the individual’s trunk. Hamon Library took this a step further, instituting Amazon-style lockers to help students with safe book pickup and drop-off. Always eager to help in any way possible, librarians found ways to go above and beyond their regular duties. During the shelter-in-place, faculty had to shift their classes online quickly. When a faculty member needed an old VHS tape digitized to share on Canvas, an SMU librarian drove to the professor’s house, took the tape from their porch and returned to the library to digitize

it so the professor could use it in class the next day.

Now that students are back, the libraries are open to in-person traffic again, albeit in a manner designed for safety. Study areas have been reduced, masks are required and sanitizing stations are provided. The libraries also offer critical Zoom spaces, places students can reserve to stay socially distant but have speedy WiFi to Zoom into their classes.

In addition to keeping Mustangs studying and working, the library has also helped inform and comfort during the pandemic. Libraries are the purveyors of information, and as such, they are more crucial than ever during tumultuous times.



“Librarians actively teach students how to find accurate information on their own,” said Killingsworth. “If an SMU student or faculty member is looking up something for their mom or their children and trying to figure out how to live in this society in a pandemic and we can help them find accurate information, well, that’s critically important.”

Librarians are also connectors, touching all aspects of life on the Hilltop. Whether it’s trying to help a student figure out a problem like who to go to on campus to fix a broken laptop or with a question about registration, SMU’s librarians can often help point people in the right direction.

Killingsworth said, “We’re good at building community. We’re really friendly, so if someone’s chatting with us and they’re having a hard day, we’re going to try to brighten things up for them and build friendships and relationships with students along the way. People are isolated, and you might not think a librarian can be your friend, but we absolutely can.”

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY FROM THE SHELTER-IN-PLACE?

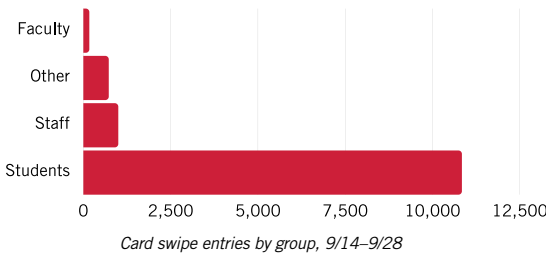
“I hosted an international student from Italy in my apartment during the spring semester – a student in the arts management program. It was her first experience at an American university, and she was so excited to have access to Hamon Library as a student, that she checked out about 150 books! When we abruptly went remote, and she faced (at her parent’s urging) returning to Milan, Italy since all classes were fully online for the remainder of the term, she starting scanning chapters of the books with a copy stand setup in her bedroom suite. I even took a photo of this desperate activity. She got one of the last international flights out of the U.S. in early April, and I had the job of bringing all the books back to Hamon for her. We both thought it was funny that of all the people she needed in her desperate hour, in order to finish her papers, she got the librarian! And we got some of the best Italian food I’ve ever eaten. Not a bad deal.” – Jolene de Verges, director, Hamon Arts Library

## SMU Libraries in Numbers

### FIRST FIVE WEEKS OF FALL

	2019	2020
Fondren Gate Counts	157,882	75% 39,259
Study Room Reservations	9,173	30% 6,434
Online Library Searches	59,432	27% 74,886
Book Checkouts	5,541	62% 2,131
Ask Us Transactions	3,390	31% 2,342
Reference Transactions	539	25% 685
Chat Transactions	83	781% 731
Instruction Sessions and Workshops	84	17% 98
Research Consultations	93	90% 177
Home Delivery	n/a	new 95
Curbside Pickup	n/a	new 167

### WHO IS VISITING THE LIBRARIES?



### WHAT LOOKS DIFFERENT?





## DISCOVER INFINITE POSSIBILITIES: HATHITRUST VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

Participants in SMU's HathiTrust workshops discovered how to use text and data mining to search over 17 million digitized items, the single largest collection of digitized books managed by a consortium of academic and research libraries. As a member of HathiTrust – a nonprofit collective founded in 2008 and dedicated to preserving and providing access to knowledge – Mustangs took their research to the next level with assistance from librarians. SMU engaged full-time HathiTrust trainers who hosted digital workshops in which students and faculty brought in their own projects and learned how to get hands-on experience using the data capsule and the web tools provided by the service. Between the SMU Libraries and HathiTrust, the possibilities for academic discovery are endless.



## My SMU Library

The first friend I made at SMU was Megan Heuer, a wonderful, knowledgeable SMU librarian working on campus. As an avid reader and writer, my affinity for all things books led me to become interested in the logistics of libraries. During the summertime, I had the opportunity to connect with Ms. Heuer, who was kind enough to go above and beyond and send me an entire course on how to cite research properly. I scheduled a Zoom session with her, and I am so thankful that I did.

Many students do not stop to consider the extensive amount of work done by librarians to create an exceptional academic environment for all. Libraries essentially operate as a business; Ms. Heuer and the other librarians must constantly work to create a positive experience for the “consumers” of knowledge that appear daily. As a librarian, Ms. Heuer must also be highly skilled in the cognitive sciences. In order to teach students how to research, read and write at an optimal level, she must understand how their brains best absorb the information she provides. Library science entails much more than simply a love for books; the unsung heroes who operate libraries thoroughly understand psychology, business, communication, information technology, literature, writing and much more.

SMU librarians are exquisite in character because they not only succeed at demonstrating this intelligence, but they also genuinely care about their Mustang family. Ms. Heuer, along with the other librarians, strives to improve the lives of students with whom she interacts. Their role in the development of academic citizens will produce a generation of world changers, which we desperately need in times of uncertainty; the kindness shown within an SMU library impacts the University community greatly. The next time you walk into Fondren, thank a librarian.

**Brynn Price '24**  
Pre-law student



## The Call of the Wild Comes to SMU

**Known best for novels like *The Call of the Wild* and *White Fang*, Jack London (1876–1916) found fame as a journalist, activist, adventurer and author.**

Now, students and scholars alike can discover much more about the celebrated novelist at SMU's DeGolyer Special Collections Library, which recently acquired a major collection of London's books, papers and personal items. Russell L. Martin III, director of the DeGolyer Library, said, “It is a remarkable acquisition, part of a truly magnificent gift from a distinguished SMU alumnus and the leading Jack London scholar.”

The collection arrived at DeGolyer care of SMU alum Earle Labor '49, '52. The Wilson Professor of American Literature *emeritus* at Centenary College of Louisiana, Labor was a pioneer in Jack

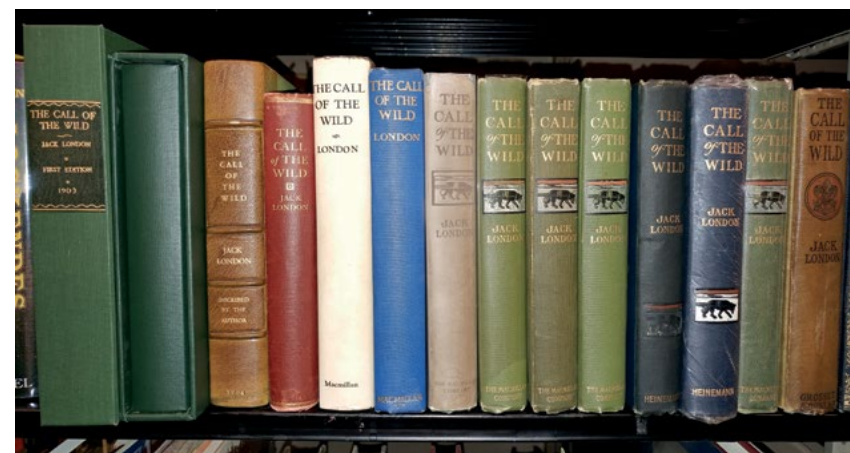
London studies and wrote the standard biography, *Jack London: An American Life*. He got to know the author's family and associates through his research, and over the course of his career, acquired first editions, letters and presentation copies from the author's collection. “Professor Labor has said that he's honored his ‘life's work has come home,’ but the honor is all ours here at the DeGolyer Library and SMU,” said Martin.

One of the most reprinted American authors, Jack London offers a unique opportunity for research at SMU. His work covers a wide range of topics from boxing to socialism and could be examined under the lens of environmental studies, travel, feminism, or political and cultural history, to name just a few. The collection includes, among thousands of items, Labor's lecture

and research notes on London, a film contract Jack London signed, his wife's will, unique letters and hundreds of editions.

“To me, the most impressive feature is the collection's comprehensiveness, all of Jack London's works, in first and important later editions, often with extraordinary personal associations. This is the kind of collection that will always be useful for scholars,” said Martin.

“London bibliographer Tom Harakal believes that DeGolyer Library now houses the most comprehensive set of *The Call of the Wild* first editions and variants in the world. But later printings are also important, and Earle Labor collected those with diligence and zeal. For example, we have a second impression of *The Kempton-Wace Letters*, an epistolary novel which London co-authored, anonymously, with Anna Strunsky, to develop their radical ideas on love and sex.” The Labor copy, according to the copyright page, was reprinted in September, 1903, and is inscribed by Strunsky to W. E. B. DuBois, “To the author of ‘Souls of Black Folk’ – Anna Strunsky Walling, N. Y. 1909.”



**Left** SMU's extensive set of editions of London's *The Call of the Wild* will provide countless research opportunities for scholars.



# A Picture of the Pandemic: The 'Class of COVID' Oral History Project

**Below** SMU students experienced a unique semester during the global pandemic. Whether attending online classes, wearing a mask or socially distancing, students helped SMU archivists record this experience for future generations.

**University Archivist Joan Gosnell was on a mission. As the COVID-19 pandemic spread to Dallas, she began looking for documents that might reveal what life was like at SMU during the Spanish flu.** Gosnell helps run the University's Voices of SMU project, which captures oral histories from underrepresented groups of SMU alumni. When Gosnell realized that there was very little in SMU's archives about the Spanish flu pandemic, she turned to her SMU Voices colleague, Jill Kelly, and they devised a plan to ensure that records about life under COVID-19 would be preserved for the next generation. Thus, the idea for SMU's Class of COVID Oral History Project was born.

In collaboration with SMU Libraries, the Clements Department of History, the Office of Engaged Learning and the Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility, the Class of COVID project seeks to record the experiences of students, faculty and staff during the global pandemic. It will create a record for future researchers who seek to understand COVID-19's impact on the SMU community. Gosnell and her team secured funding to pay two graduate and three undergraduate history students to conduct interviews via Zoom with the campus community. Speaking with close to 100 Mustangs, the team asked questions ranging from the practical – mask-wearing and social distancing – to questions getting at the heart of what it's like emotionally and psychologically to live through a pandemic. Students, faculty and staff responded to calls on social media, posters placed around campus and word of mouth to tell their stories about their experiences with the novel coronavirus.

In addition to helping future researchers, the COVID-19 project also helped SMU students get hands-on experience in the field of history. One of the undergraduates on the team was Jack Lucas '22, who said he got involved because, "I have wanted to do university research for a while, so I reached out to Dr. Jill E. Kelly [associate professor and Altschuler Distinguished Teaching Professor], and lucky for me, she was heading up this fantastic project."

The students participating in the project immediately impressed Gosnell. "They were amazing," she reports. "Their work is really very good."



**Above Left** Shayla Dye, Fondren employee, proudly wears a shirt that advertises SMU's libraries. **Right** Jennifer Cessac, Fondren operations coordinator, delivers materials to a Mustang who requested curbside delivery of books.

To enable participants to feel fully able to express their true feelings, the interviews will be embargoed for 16 years, which means researchers will have to wait to access these documents. When they do, Gosnell hopes they will understand how complicated this time really was. "There wasn't one simple narrative," she says, "I hope that in collecting the voices of COVID, as well as the memos and provost letters from this time, people will see all the different complexities of the situation."

Lucas agrees with Gosnell. He said, "The thing that surprised me most was the variety in the interviews. Everyone has a COVID story, and all of them are unique in so many ways. I interviewed people who got engaged, got hired, and passed the bar exam during the pandemic. Life never stopped."

Another student on the team, Cole Fontenot '22, was happy to discover that although the pandemic brought with it incredible stress, it also brought moments of joy. He reports, "Everyone mentioned becoming much closer with their families. I feel like for students especially, they might have drifted apart a bit from their families since coming to college. Now the pandemic weirdly afforded them an opportunity to not only be around them more, but also appreciate them even more if they were immunocompromised or in advanced age, for example."

Fontenot wants future researchers to understand how difficult it was to live with the pandemic and how critical it was to retain a

sense of humor. He says, "I hope people learn that this really did disrupt peoples' lives at a clip we have never seen before. It's so easy to look back on events once there is enough distance between then and the present and discount that event's ramifications. The reality is this pervaded every nuance of life and it has dominated our collective psyche. I also hope they take away that their great grandparents were still able to crack a joke or two in the midst of a global pandemic."

Though the current funding has expired, Gosnell hopes the work will continue now that students are back on the Hilltop. "We're interviewing the initial participants again to see how things have changed now that they're back on campus," said Gosnell. When asked how long the project will continue, Gosnell replied, "We'll keep recording as long as people are wearing masks."

**"The thing that surprised me most was the variety in the interviews. Everyone has a COVID story, and all of them are unique in so many ways."**

– Jack Lucas '22



# Colophon Turns 50

by Sam Childers

Fifty years ago this fall, a small, diverse, but like-minded group of individuals gathered in an office on the third floor of what was then the Science Information Center of Fondren Library. Their task: organize a group to “establish Southern Methodist University’s libraries as centers for cultural activities enriching the whole community.” In the ensuing half-century, Colophon, the formal name of the Friends of SMU Libraries (and a term used by printers that refers to the graphic device by which they marked their books), has accomplished that initial goal and so much more.

Within two weeks, the group sent membership invitations, elected a board of directors representing a cross section of the University and the Dallas community and held its first program, a film and exhibition of the DeGolyer’s copy of *The Nuremberg Chronicle*. That spring, the Friends hosted former First Lady Lady Bird Johnson, who signed copies of her *White House*

*Diary* and donated the profits to Colophon; \$4,300 went to the library for book acquisitions.

In 1971, Colophon established its most enduring and important legacy by forming the “Colophon Moderns Collection.” Composed of works published after 1950 that, as the acquisitions committee decreed, “are judged to be definitive in establishing the

contours of the spirit-soul-mind of man,” the collection now includes over 1,700 volumes by 150 authors. Many of the books are rare presentation copies, and most are inscribed by the authors, making it a truly unique collection of modern literature.

Colophon’s membership rolls continued to grow, and it boasted a robust programming calendar throughout the 1970s and 1980s, sponsoring not just literary talks, but special tours of private collections, behind-the-scenes visits to the University’s libraries and trips to museum exhibitions and historic sites from New Orleans to New England. Membership dues and annual rare book auctions enabled the Friends to contribute tens of thousands of dollars to the SMU Libraries by its 25th anniversary in 1995.

By 2000, Colophon retired the annual rare book auction. In its place, they instituted the annual Tables of Contents (TOC)

event, where attendees can select from any number of “table hosts” who discuss a particular topic over dinner. TOC has proved extremely popular, raising over \$500,000 to support SMU’s libraries in the ensuing two decades. (TOC is scheduled for April 10, 2021 – mark your calendars now!) In recent years, the Friends have partnered with Highland Park United Methodist Church’s “Authors LIVE!” series, and in 2010, established its annual Literati Award to honor authors whose work has had a significant impact on culture and their communities. Past honorees include Laura Bush, Jim Lehrer and Skip Hollandsworth. Support for the University’s libraries has expanded from funding for “book acquisitions” to purchasing computer equipment, archival and conservation materials, audiovisual equipment and digitization projects. In addition, the Friends provides monies for scholarships for library students and for awards recognizing outstanding library staff. Over the past 50 years, the Friends

have contributed over \$1 million in support of SMU’s libraries.

I am honored to have served as president of the Friends during both the University’s “Year of the Libraries” in 2013 and today, as Colophon celebrates its 50th anniversary. Above all of the benefits of my Friends membership, I value the camaraderie and friendships that I have made during my time as a member. If you are not yet a member, I would encourage you to join for this reason alone. Though the libraries are closed to the public, Friends members can check out books and pick them up curbside – a terrific benefit for these days of staying at home!

Though the current situation will certainly alter programming this year, (we celebrated in September with a drive-up cupcake party for our members!) Colophon will continue to, in the founder’s words, “enrich the entire community.” Happy 50th, Colophon!



**Above** Friends of SMU Libraries enjoyed cupcakes and socially distanced camaraderie to honor Colophon’s 50th birthday. Celebrants included (clockwise) Friends members John and Wendy Whaley; Friends member Harold Stanley and Vice President for Executive Affairs and Dean Holly Jeffcoat; and Joanna Bliss, Fondren Library intern and a 2020 Friends of SMU Libraries Library School Scholarship recipient. **Opposite Page** SMU librarians and Friends of SMU Libraries celebrated 50 years of Colophon with cupcakes and balloons in front of Fondren Library. Colophon provides support and funding for the libraries.





# The Nature of Talent: the Art of Everett Spruce

This past fall, the Amon Carter Museum of American Art in Fort Worth featured the work of Everett Spruce in the exhibition *Texas Made Modern: The Art of Everett Spruce*.

One of the best-known visual artists from Texas, Spruce was prolific, producing nearly 800 paintings. His work predominantly featured Texas landscapes and was exhibited in the country's most lauded museums, including Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan Museum of

Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. The Everett Spruce Collection, located in SMU's Hamon Arts Library, holds the artist's personal papers and works of art on paper and was used by the Amon Carter Museum curator to conduct research for the exhibition and catalogue.

Originally from Arkansas, Spruce is usually considered alongside other Texas regional artists who got their start during the 1930s. He grew up on his father's farm and developed an interest in sketching and painting the nature he saw every day. In the mid-1920s, a family friend, Maud Hail, caught wind of Spruce's natural talent and helped procure for him a scholarship to the Dallas Art Institute, where Spruce studied under Olin Travis and Thomas Stell. Spruce soon found employment at the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, working on his own paintings in his free time. He was included in the *Exhibition of Nine Artists Under the Age of Thirty* at the Dallas Public Art Gallery in 1932, alongside Alexandre Hogue and Jerry Bywaters, giving him his first real audience.

Throughout the 1930s, galleries and museums across the country

exhibited Spruce's art. He later worked as a professor in life drawing and creative design at the University of Texas at Austin, all the while exhibiting his paintings.

**“Donation of the Spruce Collection helped to confirm Jerry Bywaters’ vision that his own papers would act as a magnet for those of his artistic contemporaries.”**

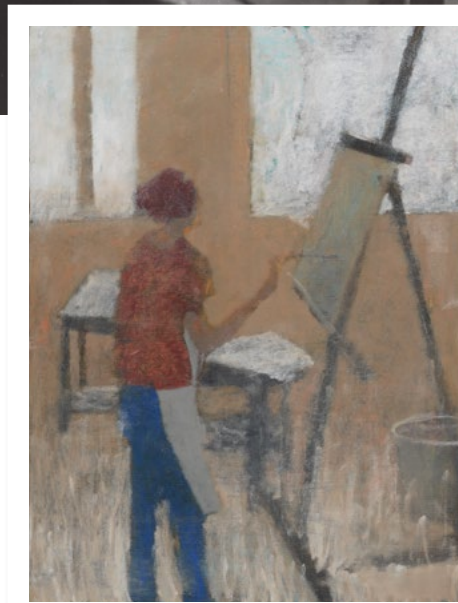
Dr. Sam Ratcliffe  
Head, Bywaters Special Collections (retired)

Proud Texans might find Spruce's work particularly compelling. “Throughout his seven-decade career, Spruce used an array of sophisticated styles to convey his profound feelings for the land,” said Shirley Reece-Hughes, Curator of Paintings, Sculpture and Works on Paper at the Amon Carter Museum of Art. “Given the countless paintings Spruce produced, and the wealth of materials in the Bywaters Special Collections at Hamon Arts Library, there is much more to discover about the artist.”

**Left** Ellen Buie Niewyk, curator of Bywaters Special Collections, noted that Everett Franklin Spruce transferred the Texas landscape to canvas as beautiful shapes and colors but with the contemporary style of the Texas regionalist movement of the 1930s and 1940s. This untitled drawing (left) can be found in the Everett Spruce Collection of the Bywaters Special Collections.



**Above** Dan Wingren teaching students in Dallas Hall. Photograph by Clint Grant, ca. 1960s. Courtesy of Jerry Bywaters Collections on Art of the Southwest, Bywaters Special Collections, Hamon Arts Library, Southern Methodist University. **Right** Dan Wingren, *Untitled*, oil on canvas, 24 x 18 inches; gift of Mary Vernon. Courtesy of the Dan Wingren Collection, Bywaters Special Collections, Hamon Arts Library, Southern Methodist University. Work painted in the 1980s in the SMU painting studio as a class demonstration.



## Dan Wingren: The Image and the Magic at Hamon

Art lovers and SMU supporters looking for inspiration need only head to the second floor of the Hamon Arts Library to visit the exhibition *Dan Wingren: The Image and the Magic*. Wingren (1923–1998), an artist and teacher, was not only an SMU alum but also a beloved SMU professor of art. In 2000, The Bywaters Special Collections of Hamon acquired Wingren's papers, including 23 charcoal drawings and a sketchbook of 33 additional charcoal drawings executed during a 1956 stay in Cannes, France.

Ellen Buie Niewyk, curator of Bywaters Special Collections, notes, “Wingren originally studied with the Texas regionalist artists, including Jerry Bywaters and Otis Dozier, but was a product of the 1950s generation that started to experiment with the new art trends of the period and travel to post-World War II Europe. In doing so, though deeply rooted in his Texas background, Wingren brought these contemporary ideas in art back to Texas where he continued to develop his own style as well as share painting techniques and art history with the numerous students he taught at SMU for so many years.”

Primarily known as a painter, Wingren was a Dallas native who exhibited his work extensively throughout Texas during the 1950s and 1960s. Visitors to the Hamon exhibition will find a variety of pieces which display the proud Mustang's wide-ranging talent. The SMU exhibit will run through May 31, 2021.



# Staff Spotlight

## Partner in student success

**Brandon Starr, the new director of development for University programs at SMU, is thrilled to be back on The Hilltop. Starr acted as director of regional development at SMU from 2010 to 2013, before moving on to serve as vice president of advancement and CEO of UNT Dallas Foundation, and later as the assistant head of school, advancement-external affairs for Good Shepherd Episcopal School of Dallas. For Starr, the return to campus feels natural. After all, for him, SMU is a family affair.**

"My mother went to SMU, my dad has a graduate degree from SMU and my grandmother lived right down the street on Westminister," Starr recounts. "As a child I used to ride my bike across the SMU campus. Honestly, I love SMU. The day I left SMU I knew I would be coming back. I was so sure I'd return to SMU that I didn't even transfer my retirement account. It's a wonderful place with an amazing culture and incredible leadership."



Starr will be taking on fundraising duties for the SMU Libraries in addition to other exciting projects. For Starr, advocating for the libraries aligns with his career focus on promoting academics, research and education. In other words, it's a perfect fit.

**"I really bought into her vision for the future of SMU Libraries and want to do everything in my power to make that vision a reality."**

"I'm a huge fan of SMU Libraries," he said. "During my interview process, I was floored by the leadership of Dean Holly Jeffcoat. I really bought into her vision for the future of SMU Libraries and want to do everything in my power to make that vision a reality. I first gained an appreciation for university libraries while working at Texas Tech. At the time, Bobby Knight was the head basketball coach and libraries held a special place in his family's heart. He would often say, 'The library is one of the most important places at a university. No one graduates from the library, but everyone uses it.' That really stuck with me throughout my career and drove me towards the libraries."

The admiration is mutual. Dean of SMU Libraries Holly Jeffcoat knows Starr's enthusiasm for the University's libraries will yield wonderful things. "I am super excited that Brandon decided to join us," she said. "He comes to his role with a lot of experience from different higher ed institutions and really understands the importance of the library in achieving R-1 status. The library is the information backbone of the institution, and you cannot grow research without growing your library."

Starr hit the ground running, familiarizing himself with the library system and all of its incredible offerings. Starr said, "I am a big fan of the special collections that SMU Libraries offers. I was familiar with the DeGolyer, Hamon and Bridwell Libraries, but I was overwhelmed by the collections they housed."

But much like SMU students, Starr is drawn not just to the libraries' vast collections of books, media and archives, but also to the peace of the buildings themselves. "A physical space in the library I have always been fond of is in the older section of the mezzanine on the northwest side of Fondren," he said. "In that section, there is an open space, a couple of vintage meeting rooms, a wonderful view out the windows along with an amazing spiral staircase. While it needs some TLC with some renovations, it screams potential if you can preserve some of the original design."

Thankfully, Fondren has Starr on its side to help donors see the potential as they consider how best to support the University. Looking toward the future of the University, Starr is eager to assist with SMU's push to reach R-1 status, a designation that indicates a University is a top-tier research institution.

"A really big thing I see as a fantastic opportunity is part of Dean Jeffcoat's long-term strategic plan, which, without giving too much away, will enable students to really settle into their research even more than they do presently and get expert assistance with using the tools available."

When not working on behalf of SMU, Starr spends time with his wife and their two daughters. Weekends often find him on the field watching his kids play on their elite soccer teams. Starr received his M.Ed. from Austin College and his B.A. in history from TCU, where he played college football. Still a fan of the game, Starr loves coming to the Boulevard and heading to Ford Stadium with his family to watch the Mustangs play. Welcome back to the Hilltop, Brandon! We're glad you're here!

## IN MEMORIAM

SMU Libraries mourns the loss Karen Blumenthal, who passed away from a heart attack at the age of 61 on Monday, May 18, 2020. Blumenthal was a longtime patron and supporter of SMU's libraries and served on the Friends of the Libraries Board from 2016-2020. An award-winning author of narrative nonfiction for young people, Blumenthal wrote 12 books for teens and adults on a range of topics including sex discrimination, the stock market crash of 1929, Prohibition, reproductive rights and various historical figures. She received her M.B.A. from SMU in 1990 and served as a highly regarded journalist for *The Dallas Morning News* and *The Wall Street Journal*. She honored her childhood love of the libraries by giving her time to the Dallas Public Libraries and to SMU's libraries. An avid home chef, her family said the best tributes to her would include "working to repair the world and enjoying a good cookie."





# Promoting Social Justice at Fondren

This summer, across the country, issues of racial justice took center stage. The murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor led many people to seek out materials to become educated about racial inequality and combat prejudice. Fondren is here to help, providing a reading list and an exhibit to encourage people to learn about the Black Lives Matter and Civil Rights movements.

Tyson Seale, marketing coordinator for SMU Libraries, said, "The library is a place for acceptance, accessibility and ideas. There was a responsibility on campus to address these issues, but as a library we needed to support direct action. A lot of people wanted actual things they could do. We began to think what we had in the libraries that would help make a difference. We tell people what to read all the time, and we knew we would have something that supported people in their endeavors to learn more about Black history and the fight for social justice."

Seale and his colleagues began sourcing books and other materials that could educate people about becoming anti-racist. They searched for ideas in both traditional and social media and spoke to SMU faculty to compile a list of comprehensive materials that could instruct Mustangs about the current moment in

history. Their reading list included a wide array of titles including Ibram X. Kendi's *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*, Angela Y. Davis' *Freedom is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement*, Harriet A. Washington's *Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present* and Michael Eric Dyson's *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America*.

The creators of the list wanted to ensure that people would have access to it, so they went a step farther, creating an in-person exhibit in Fondren's lobby. Seale said, "[The exhibit] kind of mimicked the reading list. My colleague added different media and topics to research in addition to individual books. We thought of the idea of the drop-down search auto-complete function in Google. If you're wanting to know more

about social justice and change in addition to Black Lives Matter, how would you go about doing that? You would search, maybe on a search engine or maybe you'd search your library page. We organized the reading list around what the library or Google search might be."

The exhibit will stay up for the entire academic year. When asked what he plans on reading from the list, Seale responded, "Definitely Angela Davis. I'd also like to do some research on the Black Panthers since I share a surname with one of the founders." No matter what you want to start with, a Fondren librarian will be here to help you on your journey to learn more about racial justice.

To learn more about becoming anti-racist, please visit the following link with the library-approved reading list: <https://blog.smu.edu/smulibraries/2020/06/18/anti-racism-starter-kit/>



## Serving a Growing Business Community

The highly regarded Edwin L. Cox School of Business is growing, and SMU's Business Library is here to help. With record-breaking numbers of students and the introduction of several new programs, the Business Library has adjusted to meet the expanding need of its community.

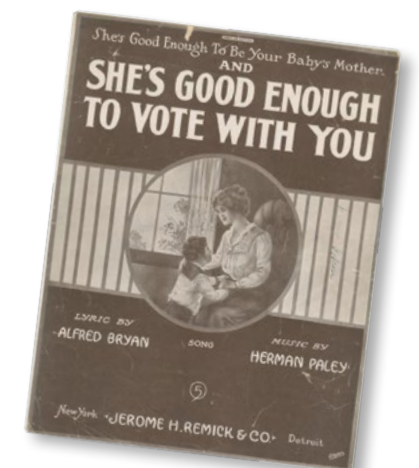
Sandy Miller, director of the Business Library said, "The Cox School of Business has seen a robust enrollment for fall. Business Librarians will be supporting about 1,000 more students than last year. We've been very busy offering virtual services including orientations, class sessions, workshops and research assistance to our students. While foot traffic in the library is down, students are still engaging with the librarians and learning how to conduct research, just in a virtual environment."

Compared with last year, library business is booming. The number of students participating in library instruction is up 28% and reference/research assistance is up 47% compared with this same time last year (June 1–August 31). Part of that is due to the pandemic, Miller believes, and part is due to the expansion of Cox's student base. Programs such as BBA Direct Admission, wherein students are admitted directly into Cox as SMU first-years, M.B.A. Direct, wherein students begin their M.B.A. straight from the fourth year of college, and the Online M.B.A. are taking off. "It's very exciting," said Miller.

Because of COVID-19, many services have shifted online, but Miller reiterates, "The Business Library is open online for you." She said, "When all instruction went virtual this spring, the Business Library followed right along to provide all regularly scheduled sessions via Zoom. Librarians worked with faculty to provide electronic access to textbooks and other course materials left behind in dorm rooms during spring break. A remote appointment option was engineered to allow off-site access to the Bloomberg Professional Service. Online business research workshops continued, and database tutorials were created for insertion into Canvas courses. Librarians also launched a proactive chat service from the website to connect instantly to students needing research assistance."

## CELEBRATING WOMEN'S VOICES

August 26 marked Women's Equality Day, a holiday commemorating the 1920 adoption of the 19th Amendment, which prohibits states and the federal government from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex. To celebrate this incredible stride toward women's equality, consider visiting DeGolyer's online exhibition: *Women's Voices, Women's Votes: An Exhibition Marking the 100th Anniversary of the Passage of the 19th Amendment*. The exhibition features over 100 objects from the collections of Jeanne Stevenson-Moessner, Helen LaKelly Hunt and the DeGolyer Library. It documents the history of the women's rights movement from the publication of Mary Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792) through the 19th century and early 20th century, with emphasis on the roles women played first in the abolitionist movement and then in the suffrage movement.





# SMU Libraries Get Out the Vote

## Voting can be tricky for university students.

For many of them, college marks the first time they are old enough to vote, so they may need assistance learning how to register or find accurate information about candidates and local propositions. Some are living away from their home states, forcing them to navigate absentee ballots. And this year's election proved particularly complicated, taking place in the midst of a global pandemic.

But SMU Libraries were ready to help all Mustangs have their voices heard.

This fall, the library staff created the Get Ready to Vote 2020 initiative, a step-by-step guide for SMU students. It included resources to register to vote, detailed instructions

for voting in Dallas County or via absentee ballot, and even a guide to what to expect at the polls.

"I thought the library needed to do something for the election, and so I gathered people to help. The goal was: How can we support voter engagement in a period of time when it's difficult?" said Megan Heuer, communication arts librarian and the head of information literacy at Fondren Library.

The committee went straight to work, creating posters and partnering with groups on campus to get students

"We had a great response from the students," said Joan Gosnell, University archivist and member of the library election committee. "We ran out of voter registration forms and had to get more for the libraries and several of the Residential Commons."

Heuer said the program proved hugely popular. "[The program] just exploded, which was the exciting part," she said. "Statistics were huge for the voter guide. As of October 30, it had more than 2,030 views."

In addition to helping students learn how to vote, the library engaged them in the entire election process, hosting debate-watching parties both virtually and in person (with social distancing measures implemented for safety). Library staff members also encouraged students to get their classmates out to the polls.

"One of the things we tried to do was to inspire students to talk to their friends about voting," Heuer said. "It's important to offer a resource like the guide so we can extend what we're trying to do."

"We even met with student government, and some of our big messages were to go out and tell your friends why you're voting."



registered to vote. The committee also wrote a comprehensive guide instructing Mustangs how to vote either locally or by mail, what not to wear at the polls, and what identification to bring. The Get Ready to Vote 2020 website included links that showed Mustangs how to contact politicians and access a voter's guide. And for students who needed additional help, SMU librarians were available to chat.

**Left** SMU Libraries and the Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility partnered on Constitution Day, September 17, to help get out the vote. Staff members donned period costumes and quizzed students on the Constitution to mark the occasion.

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## Texas Crab Grass

- 1/2 Cup Of Butter
  - 1 Med. Onion Diced + *green onion stems & garlic & serrano pepper*
  - 1 Pkg. Of Chopped Spinach Frozen, Cook Spinach And Drain
  - 7 Oz. King Crab Frozen Meat *pk.*
  - 3/4 Cup Parmesan Cheese Grated, *lemon juice to taste*
- Cook all together and serve hot in chafing dish with melba, rounds or toast points.

## HOLIDAY RECIPE BY NANCY HAMON

This winter, the director of Hamon Arts Library, Jolene de Verges, and her husband, George de Verges, took on the role of taste-testers to try out this holiday recipe from Nancy Hamon. Mr. De Verges' review is as follows:

"Dip, which I willingly tried at my wife's request, is item of evidence #67 that you cannot fail with crab, especially if the dip is pleasantly spicy. I tried this dip with wheat crackers and a mild chardonnay, and it was a wonderful combination of flavors and textures. The dip was neither too runny nor too solid, just that perfect texture and taste and is perfect for that (socially distanced) get-together on your deck or patio."