

Fall 2021

SMU LIBRARIES

# Newsletter



SMU LIBRARIES  
*Boldly Shaping Tomorrow*

HOW SMU LIBRARIES PLAN TO IGNITE RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY

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## Letter from the dean

The 2021 fall semester is “full of kick,” just like the famed Peruna tonic. And if you’ve ever seen our favorite Shetland pony run across the field after a touchdown, you’ll know that Peruna IX challenges his human handlers to keep up the pace from the first touchdown to the last. Fortunately, SMU Libraries are on pace to keep up with our Mustang family here on the Hilltop, albeit with less feistiness – and better table manners.

As SMU embarks on its groundbreaking \$1.5 billion dollar campaign, *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow*, I can’t help but think about the role of transformational ideas and the people with “kick” who push them forward. For instance, not long ago I mentioned to my former library dean and longtime mentor, Martha Bedard, that SMU Libraries finally joined the Texas Digital Library (TDL) (Page 5). Imagine my surprise when she told me that she and another librarian started what became the TDL when she was at Texas A&M in the mid-2000s. Knowing her, however, my initial surprise turned into, “Of course you did,” because her leadership boldly shaped today’s digital libraries and she has been a constant source of career and personal inspiration for me over the years.

The *SMU Ignited* campaign is a seminal opportunity for SMU Libraries to build upon the strong foundation laid by pioneering librarians and library supporters who recognize that what we do today influences the success of many, in ways known and unknown. As you will see in these pages, your libraries benefit all current and future members of our community. We embrace open doors, one of which led to the acquisition of the historically significant collections of the World Methodist Museum (Page 6). We gather other unique materials that enrich our resources so students can develop their understanding of the creation of artistic, athletic and significant achievements (Pages 8–11). We empower researchers and assure future access to their work through digital preservation techniques and technology (Page 5). We enhance the SMU community experience through reinterpretation of canonized literature into a multimedia celebration of creativity and contemplation (Page 7).

We do it because we love a good challenge, and we believe in the power of libraries to boldly shape tomorrow.

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



... LIBRARIES  
BENEFIT ALL  
CURRENT  
AND FUTURE  
MEMBERS  
OF OUR  
COMMUNITY.

# SMU Libraries – Boldly Shaping Tomorrow

How SMU Libraries plan to ignite research and discovery in the next capital campaign

**Ig-nite:** to arouse the feelings of; excite; kindle

**Kin-dle:** to become bright

These two words only begin to describe the excitement on the Hilltop September 17 when SMU officially kicked off its \$1.5 billion campaign. *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow* will enable the University to seize opportunities that will propel SMU into an exciting future and create bold legacies for generations to come.

SMU Libraries play an integral role in this new campaign and are at the forefront of research and innovative programs that will advance SMU into the highest status, R1, of the Carnegie

Classification system of research-intensive universities. SMU Libraries have long served as the heart of the Hilltop, always at the center of the University's academic endeavors, and the role that the libraries will play in helping SMU achieve R1 status is significant. Enhanced by philanthropic support during the campaign, the libraries will build on their foundation of excellence to increase discovery and innovation to benefit faculty, staff and students.

Among the top priorities for SMU Libraries is the Research Studio @ Fondren Library. The Research Studio, as conceived, will be a hub for digital scholarship where faculty, staff and students learn and do in

a communal setting. It will be a place where creative scholarship initiatives can form and grow with the assistance of experts in data science, spatial technology, digital scholarship and related technologies. The experts, based in the SMU Libraries and the Office of

**SMU Libraries play an integral role in this new campaign and are at the forefront of research and innovative programs that will advance SMU**

Information Technology (OIT), will ignite learning and application of new skills and computational techniques to experimental scholarship in all fields. The Studio environment serves as an interdisciplinary, technology rich hub that nurtures ideas and develops current and future scholars and researchers.

Special collections also top the list of library funding priorities. SMU Libraries special collections are rich with tangible materials documenting the lived human experience across



time. The valuable and diverse cultural heritage collections at SMU have been researched by scholars worldwide. To ensure that these valuable assets are preserved for current and future scholars, SMU Libraries will create two initiatives for special collections – a Special Collections Conservation Center and an endowment for special collections leadership positions. Both of these initiatives will support efforts in the conservation of valuable documents that must survive in perpetuity.

For donors interested in providing endowment support during the campaign, endowments sustaining the library internship program or the SMU Libraries dean position are options. The SMU Libraries internship program is an inclusive training ground for future librarians that adds immeasurable value to SMU. Endowing the internship program cements SMU Libraries as an institution distinguished by its ability to train new librarians and also ensures the SMU community will continue to benefit from the talent, dedication and expertise of the best and

brightest in the library profession. Endowing the dean of SMU Libraries will provide perpetual financial support for current and emerging strategic directions of SMU Libraries, especially in the ever-evolving fields of information literacy and application of digital tools to scholarship and access to collections.



Director of Development Laurie Ann Ross supports library funding initiatives

**SMU Libraries is thrilled to have Laurie Ann Ross, director of development for general University, leading the fundraising charge for SMU Libraries as the University begins *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow*, its multiyear \$1.5 billion campaign for impact.**

"Academic libraries work together with members of their institutional communities to participate in, support, and achieve the educational mission of their institutions," Ross says.

"The SMU Libraries are at the forefront of this work for SMU and fuel the essential mission of the university in teaching, learning, research and creative works. The SMU Libraries have exciting plans for the future of libraries on the SMU campus, and the campaign will offer many avenues to support these efforts. I am honored work with Dean Jeffcoat and her staff to achieve her vision for SMU Libraries."



# My SMU Library

“I love how the libraries are spread out all over campus, so I can always dip into one for an hour or two in between classes without a hike.”

— Keely McNeme '23



**Keely McNeme '23**  
*Major in political science/corporate communications and public affairs/international studies  
Minor in history*

Growing up, my favorite place in school was always the library. I loved the hordes of books, the quiet atmosphere and the ability to read to my heart's content. So, coming to SMU, I knew that I wanted the libraries to be an integral part of my academic journey.

One of the first times I remember feeling at home on campus was at my student worker job in DeGolyer Library's special collections. Although DeGolyer is one of the more obscure libraries on campus, I've been able to immerse myself in the behind-the-scenes aspects of the job. Handling old documents, finding notes in the margins of centuries-old books and helping scholars with their research have been some of my favorite parts of my life at SMU. Another perk of working in the libraries that I love is the people I've met. One of my best friends works with me at DeGolyer, and I can always count on librarian Joan Gosnell to give me chocolate on a bad day, or for dean's assistant Cindy Ruppi to give me great advice.

As a junior, I've been lucky enough to be selected as a Hamilton Scholar. I am currently conducting a research project on the geoeconomic politics of Japan. The time-intensive writing process can be extremely overwhelming at times, and a change of scenery is helpful for me to generate ideas or figure out a frustrating paragraph. After work, I like to rotate between Fondren, Hamon and Bridwell to spend an hour or two every day writing. I've found that I gravitate towards specific libraries based on my to-do list. Fondren's more casual atmosphere lets me relax more while editing my drafts. Hamon's relative quiet can help me concentrate while finding new sources or going

back through old ones. The silence and isolation at Bridwell are perfect for writing first drafts. I love how the libraries are spread out all over campus, so I can always dip into one for an hour or two in between classes without a hike.

As a student, the library and the wonderful librarians who work there are vital resources that make my academic achievements possible. As a student worker, I'm so excited that I am also supporting other students on campus. Every library has a unique atmosphere, and I know that I will remain a frequent guest to them all while working toward graduation.



## SMU JOINS TEXAS DIGITAL LIBRARY TO EMPOWER RESEARCH

This August, SMU became an institutional member of the Texas Digital Library, a collaborative consortium of Texas libraries with a shared goal of ensuring equal access to and preservation of content to aid research, instruction, cultural heritage and institutional memory. This partnership promises to elevate SMU's already outstanding digital services and provide additional training to its expert librarians.

“This collaboration will connect SMU Libraries to an organization that has digital preservation services, digital repository hosting, metadata aggregation for Digital Public Library of America (which means our digital content becomes discoverable in the DPLA), electronic theses and dissertation management, open access journals, OER (open educational resources) support and research data management support,” says Elizabeth Killingsworth, associate dean of academic initiatives and director of Fondren Library. “The services that Texas Digital Library provides its members with will give us flexibility and options as we plan the future of our digital content, including research data generated by faculty and graduate students. The

group also has a rich community of librarians with tremendous expertise. This means our librarians and staff will be plugged into professional development opportunities through interest groups and conferences.”

This new partnership aligns perfectly not only with the libraries' own goals, but also with the goals of SMU's recently launched campaign for impact, *SMU Ignited: Boldly Shaping Tomorrow*, which promises to elevate teaching and research on the Hilltop, Killingsworth says. It also aligns with the campaign goal to move significantly toward the top research designation for U.S. universities.

“One of our major goals is to build a ‘one-stop shop’ for faculty and graduate students who need help

conducting their original research,” she says. “Tapping into the Texas Digital Library community means we have access to their research data management tools to offer faculty who need to store their original data somewhere.”

“[This partnership] means our librarians who need to build their skills in research support can attend all of the professional development opportunities that the program offers. It means we have a community of expertise we can tap into as we build out our capacity to serve faculty and students. The TDL membership offers us the means to keep tabs and adopt new technology and new ideas being developed at other member universities much more quickly and easily.”

# Bridwell library chosen to house World Methodist Museum collections

The historical and theologically significant collections of the World Methodist Museum are moving to Bridwell Library, where public exhibits and opportunities for study will ensure the long-term integrity and accessibility of this important resource. The award of the World Methodist Museum collections is believed to be the largest single acquisition of materials by Bridwell Library in its 70-year history.

The museum collections tell the story of Methodism, which began in England with brothers John and Charles Wesley meeting as a small student group at Oxford University in the early 18th century before their mission work carried their beliefs to the American colonies and beyond. Portraits of the early founders are included in the collections, as well as rare books and manuscripts, letters and the traveling pulpit of John Wesley. Part of the collections focuses on the work of Charles Wesley, who wrote more than 9,000 hymns and poems over his lifetime, including such interdenominational favorites as *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* and *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*.

The collections, which had been housed at the World Methodist Museum in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina until its closure in February, were transferred to SMU in May 2021. Plans for a celebratory opening exhibition and related events are being scheduled for the latter part of 2022.

The location in Dallas will benefit not only SMU theology students but provide an easily accessible location in the center of the country for visitors.

"We are honored to be chosen as the sole recipient of the entire World Methodist Museum collections," says Holly Jeffcoat, dean of SMU Libraries.

"The collections will significantly enhance our holdings in Methodistica and Wesleyana such that Bridwell Library will be one of the most important destinations for church historical research – certainly in North America, and perhaps even worldwide. Once on site, we will prioritize the organization of collections; digitization of hundreds of archival letters and documents by and about early Methodist leadership; and curation of a wide-ranging variety of cultural artifacts. It is a tremendous addition and will be a game-changer in so many ways."



Above Iconographic art from the World Methodist Collections offers a wide array of objects for researchers to study. Below John Wesley's traveling pulpit comes to SMU as part of the collection.



## CELEBRATING A LITERARY LUMINARY: BRIDWELL HOSTS DANTE FESTIVAL ON THE 700TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS PASSING

Literature buffs and casual readers alike know of **Dante Alighieri's *Divine Comedy***. However, many may not know that this year marks the 700th anniversary of the Italian poet's passing. To celebrate, Bridwell Library hosted the Dante Festival August 31 through September 2.

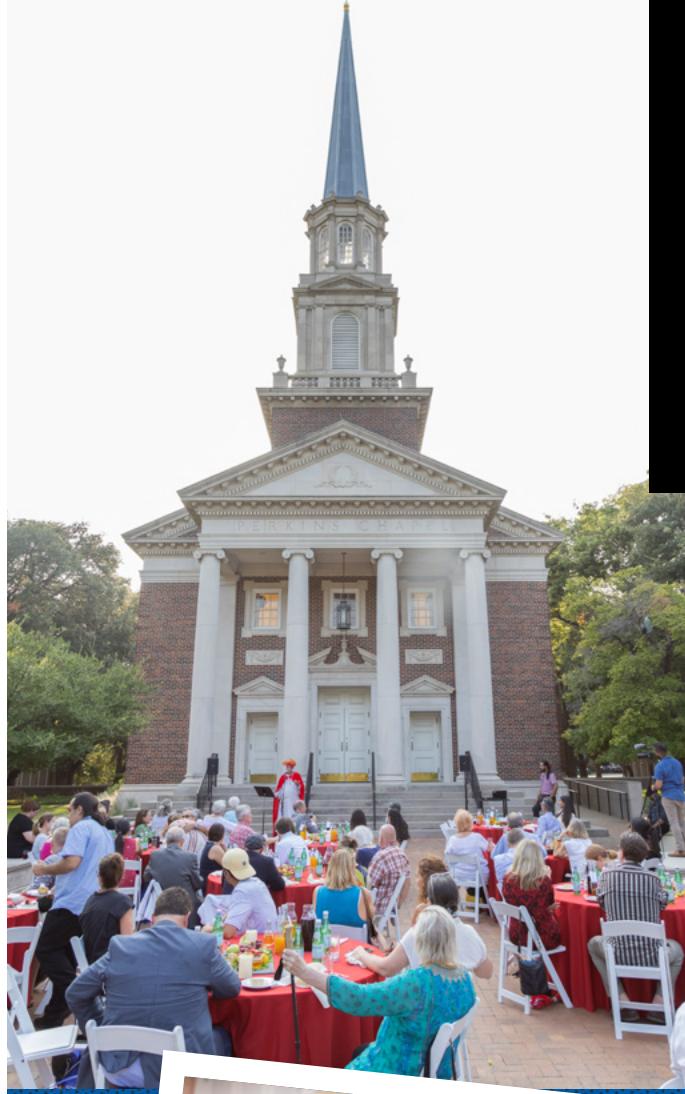
The festival originated from a discussion between Anthony J. Elia, director of Bridwell Library and J.S. Bridwell Foundation Endowed Librarian, and his friend and colleague in the Department of World Languages and Literatures, Brandy Alvarez, SMU senior lecturer of Italian. "Brandy, who has been teaching Dante for years, kept saying to me, 'We should do something for the Dante anniversary, we should do something.' After a few times, I got it in my head and started coming up with ideas," recalls Elia.

Attended by SMU faculty, staff, students and community members, the festival included a film screening, panels with experts on Italian art, religion and history and a live music and poetry performance. A 13th-century-style Tuscan banquet offered attendees a glimpse into the food and drinks Dante himself would have enjoyed. There was even a visit from Dante himself, or rather, a library director dressed as Dante.

"It all really turned out better than we could have imagined," Elia said.

"The films were great in Perkins Chapel, and everyone seemed to enjoy the post-film discussions and debates," he said. "The opening reception and art show and rare book exhibit was a lovely way to get people together and engage in various media. The way that everyone came together in that space, from composers and pianists and painters and fabric designers and poets, for example, was extraordinary. They were all talking to one another! Ideas flowing – that's what it's all about, right?"

**Top** "Dante" made a special appearance to celebrate the festival at the 13th-century-style Tuscan banquet. **Middle** Dante festival participants enjoyed a special concert of classical and newly commissioned works of music and poetry. **Bottom** Dean Jeffcoat and Director of Bridwell Library Anthony Elia celebrate Bridwell Library's reopening.



# Hamon acquires one-of-a-kind collection from Tony-Award-Winning set designer John Arnone '70

The Bywaters Special Collections of Hamon Arts Library has recently acquired the professional collection of Tony-award-winning set designer John Arnone '70. It is a treasure-trove of inspiration and research material for students of theater, design and Broadway history, SMU Libraries experts say.

Awarded a B.F.A. in theater design from Meadows, Arnone has been actively involved in the drama community for more than 45 years. This rich collection of his materials includes production bibles (plans, sketches, story boards, photos, prop lists, reviews and programs) and 3D scale models.

"John Arnone's designs exemplify the man: an artist of the first caliber who combines rigorous research

and attention to detail with a deep humanity," says Blake Hackler, chair of the Division of Theatre in Meadows. "From his initial triumphs off-Broadway to his Tony-award-winning work on *The Who's Tommy* and his long partnership with legendary playwright Edward Albee, Arnone's collected works will offer endless inspiration and instruction to future generations of design students. We are honored to be the custodians of such a rich legacy."

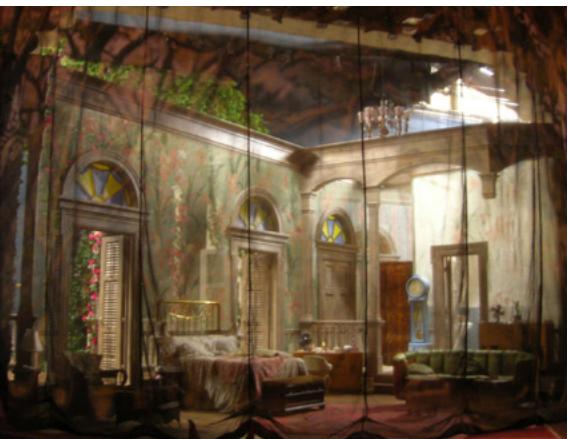
A native of Dallas, Arnone's storied career began in 1976 with the play *Vanities*, which featured the work of other notable SMU

alums. The play was written by Jack Heifner '68, directed by Garland Wright '69, produced by Milton Justice '68 and starred Kathy Bates '69. A founding member of New York's Lion Theatre Company, Arnone designed numerous critically acclaimed productions including *K: Impressions of The Trial by Franz Kafka*, for which he received his first Obie Award. He has partnered with luminary directors and legendary actors for both on and off-Broadway productions, including Arthur Miller, Sigourney Weaver, Mandy Patinkin, Christopher Reeve, Kevin Kline, Tony Kushner, Anna Deavere Smith and Vanessa Redgrave, among others. His local work includes productions for Pat Kelly at the University of Dallas, several productions for the Dallas Theater Center and over 30 productions for



**Above** *The Tempest*, The Shakespeare Theatre, Washington D.C., 1997 **Right** *How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying*, Broadway, 1995

**Opposite page** (top) *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, The Geffen Playhouse, 2005, (bottom) John Arnone '70



the late Katherine Owens at the Undermain Theater in Dallas.



In 1993, Arnone's set designs for *The Who's Tommy* won him every prestigious theater award including, the Tony Award, the New York Drama Critics Award, the Outer Critics Circle Award, the Los Angeles Film Critics Association Award, Canada's Dora Mavor Moore Award and an Olivier nomination. He also won a second Obie Award for sustained success in theater.

Arnone also served as an educator, teaching students at SMU, Carnegie Mellon, University of Southern California and the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. When looking for a place to house his archives, Arnone reached out to SMU, delighting the Hamon staff, says Emily George Grubbs, archivist for the Bywaters Special Collections.

"The material itself is extremely unique and valuable to historians, set designers – anyone interested in theater," Grubbs says. "These materials are available for research, and we really want people to use this collection."

The collection offers a chance for students to experience the work of an icon in the field of theatre design, says Jolene de Verges, director of Hamon Arts Library.

"Meadows offers an MFA in theatre design, costume design and lighting. We have a new crop of students entering this year. It's an impressive program – and the one John himself graduated from," de Verges says.

"This is an opportunity for those students to be exposed to an outstanding professional in their field."

## FOOTAGE OF THE VELVET UNDERGROUND FROM THE JONES COLLECTION DEBUTS AT CANNES

Rock 'n' roll fans rejoice! Rare footage from Hamon Library's G. William Jones Film and Video Collection of iconic band The Velvet Underground made its debut at the Cannes Film Festival this year.

The previously lost clip features the band performing at a Vietnam War protest at Dallas' White Rock Lake in 1969. Todd Haynes, the documentarian and director, discovered this footage and used it in the film *The Velvet Underground*, which premiered at the Grand Théâtre Lumière, the festival's largest and most prestigious theatre.

"We discovered it in our collection in some undocumented odds and ends that had never been fully inventoried or explored," says Jolene de Verges, Hamon Arts Library director. "We'd put it up with our watermark on it on the internet, and a couple of documentary filmmakers have contacted us to use it."

The clip was found by SMU film and media arts student Emily Cook '21, who worked as a student assistant in the archive. Her seminal role in discovering the footage earned her a ticket to the Cannes Festival to see the premiere.

"She has a picture of her on the runway in velvet," says de Verges. "It's just great. She talked about how proud she was to be there and to see something from our collection at Cannes."

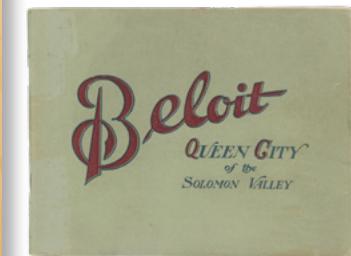
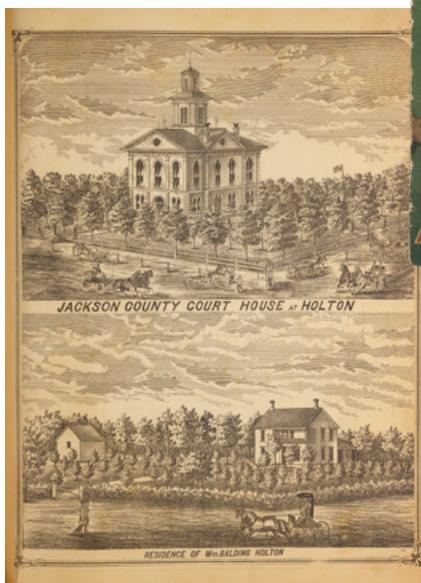


# DeGolyer Library acquires Michael Heaston Collection on Kansas and the West

DeGolyer Library recently expanded its holdings on the West with the acquisition of the Michael Heaston Collection.

Heaston, an esteemed Western bookseller and longtime friend of the DeGolyer Library, donated hundreds of rare books, pamphlets, broadsides, atlases, maps and ephemera. These items provide a rich repository of materials for researchers and students alike.

The collection contains an excellent sampling of maps, including *Map Showing the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad System With Its Connections: March 1st, 1887* and *Highway Map of Kansas, "The Right Way," Complete Road Information*



Broadsides, like the one from W.J. Ratcliff in Atwood, Kansas, announce to the world, in bold red type, that he has "BARGAINS IN NORTHWEST KANSAS LANDS ... WHEAT, CORN, AND ALFALFA FARMS." No other copies of this broadside have been recorded.

Another rare broadside features Maj. H.R. Hendershot, "the famous drummer boy of the Rappahannock, assisted by the best local talent in the city," who promises a "GRAND ENTERTAINMENT" in Huron, Kansas on April 23, 1889.

Students of Texas history will find holdings about people moving to the Lone Star State in the late 19th century. Potential immigrants to Texas were told in one broadside to "NOTE THE REDUCTION!" in ticket rates along the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad. The bargain went into effect September 1, 1878. Fare from St. Louis to Dallas was advertised as "\$28.80 first class or \$18.00 for emigrants; children under five, FREE; children five to twelve, HALF RATES! With 200 pounds of luggage per emigrant, FREE!"

Prior to the Heaston gift, DeGolyer had only two 19th-century county atlases for Kansas; it now has 60. This stunning accrual will make the DeGolyer Library one of the best places in the country to study the metes and bounds of agricultural, commercial and community life in 19th-century Kansas.



## BATTER UP! TOM KAYSER COLLECTION ON THE TEXAS BASEBALL LEAGUE SLIDES INTO DEGOLYER

DeGolyer Library recently became the home to the Tom Kayser Collection on the Texas League. The league, a minor league baseball consortium, operated in the south central United States for more than a century. Archives of the professional baseball league include its inception in 1902 to its last year in 2020, when all of the clubs were purchased by major league franchises and the minor leagues were reorganized. Donated by the last president of the Texas League, the Kayser Collection consists of over 90 linear feet of material, including biographical and historical files kept by the league office, alphabetically arranged; photographs of players, teams, managers and stadiums; box scores; media guides and official record books; newsletters; official statistics; playoff and postseason files; Texas League All-Star game files; and "This Date" files, a chronological series, 1888-2015. Also included are baseball yearbooks, published by Spalding, Reach and the Sporting News, from the 19th century to the present. Historians as well as baseball fans will find much to explore and discover.

Above: The Only Three Be-Spectacled Left Hand Pitchers in the World on One Team. Wichita Falls, Texas, 1929.  
[photograph] Right: Dallas Eagles [program], 1949. Spalding's Official Baseball Guide (Chicago, 1884)



# Don't miss these upcoming exhibits

## Symbiosis of Script, Font, and Form: A Selection of Artists' Books

November 8, 2021 to March 31, 2022

Bridwell Library

Over 40 books drawn from Bridwell Library Special Collections reveals ways in which the sensitive integration of text, art and craft can result in bound printed pages that are astounding.



## Engaged with Books: Photographs Over Time

September 9, 2021 to November 12, 2021

Hillcrest Foundation Exhibit Hall, Fondren Library West

The exhibit includes such early photographic processes as daguerreotypes, cartes de visite, cabinet cards, studio portraits and 20th-century snapshots.

## Octavio Medellín: Spirit and Form

February 6, 2022 to January 15, 2023

Dallas Museum of Art

A noted Mexican American artist and former professor at SMU, Medellín was a sculptor who worked for more than 40 years in the Dallas area. The DMA exhibit features items from SMU's Bywaters Special Collections in the Hamon Arts Library.

## SAVE THE DATE

### *Narrative as Reality: A World Reimagined/ Selections from the Jessica and Kelvin Beachum Family Collection*

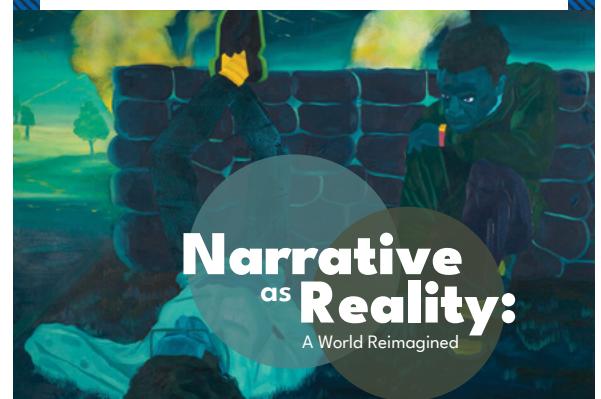
February 17, 2022 to May 22, 2022

Hamon Library

This exhibition, *Narrative as Reality: A World Reimagined*, presents a glimpse into selected works from the Jessica and Kelvin Beachum Family Collection, which beholds an artistic world of hope, Black joy, reality and aspiration. Each composition within the collection offers a unique story. Kelvin Beachum '10, '12 plays offensive tackle for the Arizona Cardinals. In addition to their professional commitments, Kelvin and Jessica enjoy collecting art that aims to tell the story of what has happened in history, what is happening in the present, and what is still to come in the future.



The Beachums look forward to sharing selections from their growing collection with the SMU community during this upcoming exhibition.



## SMU Libraries Student Advisory Board works to meet the needs of all Mustangs

Now in its third year, the SMU Libraries Student Advisory Board aims to provide the libraries with insight on how to meet the needs of SMU's diverse campus population.

Composed of 15 students, including undergraduates and graduate students from across the various colleges and schools in the University, the Student Advisory Board considers how to improve library spaces, services and collections to better serve all students on the Hilltop.

The issues they tackle can require deep research and analysis, says Elizabeth Killingsworth, associate dean of academic initiatives and director of Fondren Library.

"For example, we have a huge project to redesign our web pages," says Killingsworth.

"The students have met with librarians leading this project and have shared design ideas, their frustrations, and ideas for solutions. We're incorporating their ideas for improvements."

Student board members have also

addressed issues surrounding mental health and anxiety, which have led to library events and strategies to help students navigate stress successfully.

The board has even helped address more basic needs of some Mustangs.

"Board members have given us insights into how to help students who are food insecure," says Killingsworth. "We have a food pantry in Fondren, and the board members have helped with ideas for better access and marketing."

Killingsworth says that fundamentally, the aim of the board is to support SMU students.

"Our goal is to serve the whole student and create a supportive community that serves not only a student's academic needs, but also their psychological, physical and emotional well-being. We want students to know we care about them, and the board helps us improve our ability to serve students."

**Above** Members of the SMU Libraries Student Advisory Board gather for their meeting in DeGoyer Library.

## BUSINESS LIBRARY HONORS PROFESSOR DAVID JACOBSON WITH THE 2021 STAR AWARD

The business library is happy to announce that this year's recipient of SMU's annual STAR (Super Teacher Advocating Research) Award, given for outstanding teaching, is Cox professor David Jacobson.

At SMU, Jacobson is a professor of practice teaching law, global business strategy and complex problem-solving while also serving as the named executive director of Working Professional Programs. He holds an MBA and J.D. and has worked as a senior-level executive and general counsel for different international companies with interests in both the United States and China. "David engaged with the Business Library the moment he came to the Cox School of Business," says Sandy Miller, director of the Business Library. "Since that time, he has sought out opportunities to include a library research component in his graduate courses."

In spring 2021, Jacobson and Miller were awarded an SMU Libraries information literacy stipend to develop a three-pronged research plan for the complex problem-solving course.



# Friends of SMU Libraries welcomes first-year Mustangs and their families

Friends of SMU Libraries welcomed over 400 first-year students and their family members to *Friends, Family and First-Years* on the Boulevard outside Fondren Library during Family Weekend. Guests enjoyed meeting other first-year families while eating Cane's chicken, playing lawn games and watching college football on the

big screen before SMU's big win over North Texas. Friends board members greeted guests along with library staff members and Dean Holly Jeffcoat who even gave a few impromptu library tours. Due to the overwhelming response to this year's event, the Friends have already decided to make this an annual library tradition.



## FRIENDS OF SMU LIBRARIES ANNUAL TABLES OF CONTENT FUNDRAISER CELEBRATES PHOTOGRAPHER LAURA WILSON

Each year, the SMU Libraries celebrate literary luminaries and up-and-coming authors during the Tables of Content dinner.

After having to postpone the event last year due to COVID-19, library supporters were thrilled to welcome back this beloved evening of engaging discussion with fascinating table hosts on a variety of topics.

Tables of Content, under the leadership of honorary chair Nancy Perot, convened on Saturday, October 23 in the Fondren Centennial Reading Room in Fondren Library to fete renowned photographer Laura Wilson with the presentation of the 11th annual Literati Award. Wilson's photographs have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, *Vanity Fair*, *London's Sunday Times Magazine*, and *The Washington Post Magazine*, among others. She has published six books of photographs and has had work exhibited in the Dallas Museum of Art, the Houston Museum of Fine Art and the Amon Carter Museum for American Art, to name just a few.

Attendees began the evening by chatting with haute young authors before moving onto dinner with their illustrious table hosts, including SMU professors such as Stephanie Amsel, director of discernment and discourse, who led a conversation



on Medievalism in Pop Culture, and Jodi Cooley, associate professor of physics and Ford Research Fellow, who discussed the topic Fantastical Dark Matter and How We Find It. Other guests chatted with table hosts including sports talk radio host Norm Hitzges; *New York Times* bestselling author Sarah Hepola, writer of *Blackout: Remembering the Things I Drank to Forget*; and SMU librarians Russell Martin, director of DeGolyer Library, and Anthony Elia, director of Bridwell Library and J.S. Bridwell Foundation Endowed Librarian.

Proceeds from Tables of Content benefit the annual Grants Program sponsored by the Friends of the SMU Libraries, which supports



the purchase of books, periodicals, electronic resources and other much-needed equipment and materials for all of the SMU libraries.

**Above** SMU President R. Gerald Turner and Dean Holly Jeffcoat present the 11th Annual Literati Award to photographer Laura Wilson. Provost Elizabeth Loba, her husband Todd Ridgeway, Executive Board Member Carol Roehrig and her husband Fred Seipp showed their support for SMU Libraries. **Left** Attendees enjoyed meeting the haute young authors and hearing about their work.

# Staff spotlight

## PAULINE MARTIN, HEAD OF ACCESS SERVICES AND USER EXPERIENCE LIBRARIAN AT BRIDWELL LIBRARY

**Pauline Martin wants you to know she is here to help. “When you walk through the door, don’t be intimidated or afraid to talk to the librarians,” says Martin. “We’re here for you. I’m looking forward to getting to know the students and faculty on campus.”**

A North Texas native, Martin joined SMU from the University of Texas at Dallas in March 2021, where she served as assistant head of acquisitions and worked behind the scenes in technical services. Martin has also acted as a librarian for Children’s Medical Center in Dallas, Seattle Public Library, Dallas Museum of Art and The Sixth Floor Museum. Though she received a BFA from University of North Texas, Martin has been a library fan from the start.

“I started working in libraries in high school at the Richardson Public Library shelving books,” she says. “In college, I worked in the library as a student assistant. I was in art school and needed to pay bills. The UNT librarians said I’d be a great librarian.” For Martin, the librarians were her allies. “I wanted to support others as librarians have done for me.”

Martin’s favorite thing about working at Bridwell Library is the students. “I enjoy helping and nourishing the younger generation. Here at SMU, I’m excited to be back on the front lines in libraries again.” For Martin, the most rewarding thing about being a librarian is when you’re able

to meet a need and see growth in others. “It’s that moment when you see the lightbulb go off.”

Martin can often be found stationed at the Bridwell Library’s main desk. “Bridwell is my house,” she says. “When you come into my house, I want to make sure you feel welcome as your first point of contact and ensure you get what you need here.”

Since coming to SMU, Martin has been impressed with the entire SMU Libraries team, noting that its passion and commitment to excellence make our libraries unique.

“It’s always about the people,” she says. “Everyone here is very smart and dedicated. There is a vision and a sincerity to helping students succeed. They’re passionate about what they’re doing and what their mission is regardless of what department they’re in. We’re all a team and we have a common goal – we want you to succeed. We want you to be you!”

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– Pauline Martin



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## Champions of SMU Libraries

Members of the SMU Libraries Executive Board met in person – for the first time in more than 18 months – at the newly renovated Bridwell Library. The group enjoyed a tour of the renovations as well as highlights from the special collections.