

Spring 2022

SMU LIBRARIES

Newsletter



CONNECTING OUR

Communities

SMU Libraries share history, art and culture

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Letter from the dean

Those who meet with me on any frequency know that I always have a copy of the *SMU Libraries Strategic Plan, 2019-2024* nearby. Often I'll pick it up, show it to the camera if in a Zoom meeting, and relate the topic under consideration to a strategic area, goal, or objective. My personal copy has sticky notes that track progress with up, down, or sideways arrows and handwritten reminders. Occasionally it goes missing within a stack of documents only to turn up after an anxious search.

In reviewing the draft Spring 2022 SMU Libraries Newsletter, I reached for my copy and, although this Newsletter isn't technically a meeting, I am holding it up to you, dear library supporters, right now. Our mission, values, and goals shine with intensity of purpose throughout the pages. It is possible you don't have a worn copy of the *Strategic Plan* booklet next to you, so let me guide you through this Newsletter as I see it.

First, a reminder of our goals:

1. Activate Cultural Heritage
2. Champion Research Innovation
3. Impact Student Success
4. Connect our Communities
5. Ignite Discovery
6. Cultivate Organizational Excellence

In the pages ahead you'll see how we *activate cultural heritage* by mounting exhibitions that feature materials about prominent Dallas icons (12), recognize shared history (13), and celebrate contemporary art and culture (8, 11, 12, 13, 16). We also preserve the past for the future through welcoming new collections and partnerships (9, 13). Along the way we *connect our communities* by holding community-building events and opportunities to learn from notable speakers and each other (6, 8, 11, 13).

We *champion research innovation* by hiring amazing new talent to lead our evolving research and digital scholarship effort (3), participating as a pilot site in a cutting-edge industry project (3), and supporting undergraduate research excellence (7).

We *ignite discovery* by removing technological barriers to our services and resources (2, 3), *impact student success* by caring for the whole student across a range of experiences (5), places (14), and honors (15), and *cultivate organization excellence* by recognizing the importance of who we are (4), where we've been (15), and where we excel (7, 15).

Libraries are about access to information and people. Our driving motivation is to lift up, educate, and support our broad network of learners, scholars, researchers, community, and colleagues in what drives them.

Lastly, I am incredibly proud of all we have accomplished since my arrival in late 2018. I am also encouraged about all that we will continue to achieve going forward in service of this great university. My sticky-filled *Strategic Plan* booklet tells me you'll be seeing many more marvelous things from us.

Holly Jeffcoat
Dean of SMU Libraries



SMU Libraries launches new user-friendly website

Astute users of technology, Mustangs require a library website they can easily navigate to propel their studies to new heights. Yet, visitors to SMU's old library website found information spread out across different pages, making the site difficult to use.

To address this issue, SMU Libraries embarked on a project to overhaul and update the library website, designing it to be more user friendly. SMU Libraries Dean Holly Jeffcoat formed the Web Content Working Group to develop a new website that would meet the needs of the SMU community.

Sarah Jenkins, content strategy librarian, says, "We had two main goals for the site –empower our users and help them quickly find the information they're looking for, and to showcase the services, collections and expertise at all of our libraries."

The first order of business was for the working group to meet with library staff across the University to learn about specific areas of service and collections. "Meeting with our staff was one of my favorite parts of the project," said Jenkins. "Each library has such talented, thoughtful people, and it was so interesting to learn about what makes each library unique." The group incorporated the expertise of SMU's librarians to combine, redesign and rewrite webpages. "Before the redesign," said Jenkins, "if you wanted to find out how to borrow a book, you would have to visit six websites to see the policies and procedures for each library. Now we have one page that explains that information for all of our libraries."

The new design also features clear and consistent language to guarantee that all content is specific and functional – respecting users' time.

New website features include:

- A mega-menu that shows the most used and useful pages in the menu.
- "Find" pages that explain how to locate different types of materials.
- Librarian-curated webpages that showcase each library's unique services and resources.
- An overview of each library's special collections in one place.
- Teaching support pages that pull together all of the information for faculty to collaborate with librarians and integrate library resources into their classes.
- Scholarship and publishing pages that showcase the support, services and tools SMU Libraries offer to support original research at SMU.

"I am very proud that we were able to reduce the total footprint of the library's website by around 80%, without removing any needed information. This will make finding things so much easier for our users!" said Jenkins. "But the thing I am most proud of is all of the work that everyone on our teams accomplished."



Staff spotlight

SPENCER KERALIS NAMED NEW DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INITIATIVES

SMU Libraries are excited to welcome Spencer Keralis to the Hilltop as the director of research and scholarly initiatives. A newly created position, the director of research and scholarly initiatives will develop collaborative partnerships to facilitate a seamless, interdisciplinary and University-wide network to support scholarly and creative research and will lead the SMU Libraries' research team to create, manage and promote a portfolio of services to support the faculty and students involved in original research projects. In addition, the new director will take the helm for the design of services and spaces for the Libraries' new Digital Scholarship Center in Fondren Library which will serve as the University's central hub of research support. This position requires a librarian with outstanding communication, organizational and leadership skills, making Keralis a perfect fit.

"The depth and breadth of Spencer's

knowledge and experience is difficult to find in one person, and Spencer has it all," said Elizabeth Killingsworth, associate dean of academic initiatives and director of Fondren Library. "Spencer has extensive experience with digital scholarship and the tools and support services faculty and graduate students need to conduct original research. Spencer's experience working not only with faculty and graduate students, but also coordinating with other research support services distributed across campus, will be instrumental in expanding on our services."

Spencer comes to the Hilltop by way of University of Illinois at Urbana-



Champaign where they served as an assistant professor at the Siebel Center for Design and as digital humanities librarian. They earned their M.A. and Ph.D. in English and American literature at New York University and their B.A. in English from the University of Minnesota. The writer of numerous articles and book chapters, Keralis co-authored the book *The Illustrated Charlotte Temple*, which will come out this year.

PARTNERSHIP WITH EX LIBRIS FUELS RESEARCH

SMU Libraries continue to spark ideas and kindle research through their newest partnership with Ex Libris, a software company that provides cloud-based services for institutions of higher education. SMU will act as a pilot partner with Ex Libris for their newest venture, a metadata platform that will allow libraries to share bibliographic data with one another, making cataloging of holdings a more efficient process.

SMU will help test this new program before public release and provide invaluable feedback to the product developers to help make the metadata platform more efficient and usable. "This is an excellent opportunity for the libraries to provide input in the early stages of product development and to shape the process to fit our needs," said Stacey Beach, SMU systems librarian. "A well-functioning open metadata platform would enhance our ability to provide timely, accurate access to our newly acquired resources."

My SMU Library

Over the course of the last four years I have spent a great deal of time in the libraries at SMU—researching, reading, writing, procrastinating, writing, and connecting with friends. But even before I came to SMU in 2018, I felt a strong tie to the libraries on campus.

My mother has worked at SMU all of my life, so I spent time as a child doodling on classroom white boards or having rolling chair races up and down SMU hallways with my sister. Among these many SMU memories, what stands out is the time we spent in Bridwell Library when my mom needed to do research. There is an awe-inspiring quietness to a big library that is impressive when you are young and still learning about the world. Those afternoons at Bridwell we had a lot of freedom; we were generally allowed to roam about as we pleased aside from having to be quiet and staying out of the moving bookshelves in the basement (my mother was worried we would get stuck since we weren't above the electronic sensor's weight limit).

I have always enjoyed books, and I remember spending a lot of time in those reading rooms trying to read books that were, shockingly, incomprehensible to me as an elementary student.

Nevertheless, when I think of Bridwell Library, I think of the excitement of finding bits of books I could understand, of trying to sit at the tables and look studious, of how immense and overwhelming a beautiful library is when you yourself are so small. Though the library has changed some in past years, I still find myself inspired to learn and to read when I spend time there. Admittedly, some of the books in Bridwell continue to perplex me, but it seems only right that they do, and no matter what, I keep coming back.

Katherine Delony '22

Major in Art History, English, and Education
Minor in Women's and Gender Studies



Mustangs helping Mustangs

The college experience has always been tough. Living away from home, engaging in rigorous academic study and navigating adult life can cause students profound anxiety. With the pandemic entering its third year, the libraries wanted to do all they could to alleviate student stress, which is why they created the Ask-A-Mustang program.

This new service is a collaborative effort to meet students' most pressing questions in a low-stakes, nonstressful environment. Staffed in the Starbucks area of Fondren Library by a member of SMU's faculty or staff and a volunteer SMU undergraduate, Ask-A-Mustang helps students find the help they need to be successful.

"Students are still experiencing 'hidden curriculum' anxiety," said Jonathan McMichael, undergraduate success librarian and director of the research and user experience internship program. "They want to know how to talk to their professor, book a tutoring appointment or find a



study group. I think having regular sessions where people can ask the questions they might be too embarrassed or feel intimidated to ask elsewhere could help. I talked with a few students and began brainstorming a few initiatives that might better support students this semester. Ask-A-Mustang was one of those responses."

The successful service fields all types of student questions such as queries on enrollment eligibility, Bursar's Office fines, research assignments, study abroad programs, affordable technology, dorm assignments, general education curriculum and grade replacement policy. McMichael hopes the program will "provide a release valve for the challenges students are facing" and "normalize the challenges of adjustment. This could give a way for those at SMU to care for each other."

Ask-A-Mustang centers on real student experiences, and while some of its questions concern the bureaucratic, the program itself encourages connection between students and faculty and staff. "The provost can send us an email about students experiencing anxiety on campus or provide us data about how many students miss their enrollment period, but seeing the humanity of students behind those messages and statistics can give us a perspective and motivation we might need to meaningfully solve these issues," said McMichael. "Seeing real student experiences activates our empathy and helps us think of human-centered solutions (instead of bureaucratic-centered). We start figuring how to help this person in front of me and people like them."

"Seeing real student experiences activates our empathy and helps us think of human-centered solutions."

— Jonathan McMichael

Friends of SMU Libraries honors food writer Adrian Miller

On March 19, 2022, in the Fondren Centennial Reading Room, Friends of SMU Libraries held its annual Tables of Content event during which library friends, supporters and patrons celebrated the 2022 Literati Award winner while conversing with SMU professors, local writers and cultural critics.

The Literati Award honors individuals who have used the written word to advance the ideals of creativity, conviction, innovation and scholarship and who have had a significant impact on culture and the community through their work. The 2022 Literati Award was granted to Adrian Miller, culinary historian and author. An attorney and certified barbeque judge, Adrian Miller earned his A.B in international relations from Stanford University and a J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center. From 1999 to 2001, Miller served as a special assistant to President Bill Clinton with his Initiative for One America – the first free-standing office in the White House to address issues of racial, religious and ethnic reconciliation. Miller went on to serve as a senior policy analyst for Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, Jr. From 2004 to 2010, he served on the board for the Southern Foodways Alliance.

Miller's first book, *Soul Food: The Surprising Story of an American Cuisine, One Plate at a Time* won the James Beard Foundation Award for Scholarship and Reference

in 2014. His second book, *The President's Kitchen Cabinet: The Story of the African Americans Who Have Fed Our First Families, From the Washingtons to the Obamas* was published on President's Day 2017. It was a finalist for a 2018 NAACP Image Award for "Outstanding Literary Work – Non-Fiction," and the 2018 Colorado Book Award for History. Adrian's third book, *Black Smoke: African Americans and the United States of Barbecue*, was published last spring.

In addition to honoring Miller, attendees had the chance to mingle and have books signed by 10 featured authors from the Dallas Literary Festival during the cocktail reception before chatting over dinner with their table hosts, which included luminaries working in history, art and literature, such as Will Evans, founder and executive director of Deep Vellum Publishing; Mark Castro, curator for Latin American Art at the DMA; and Jerrie Marcus Smith, author of *A Girl Named Carrie*. Funds raised from the event benefit the Friends annual grants program which provides support for all SMU Libraries.



Left SMU Libraries Dean Holly Jeffcoat, 2022 Literati Award winner Adrian Miller and SMU President R. Gerald Turner pose with Miller's award.

SMU LIBRARIAN RAHNI KENNEDY AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP

Rahni B. Kennedy, a music and media catalog/metadata librarian and physical processing manager at SMU, has been selected as a fellow for the prestigious and competitive 2022–2023 Association of Research Libraries Leadership and Career Development Program (LCDP).

The LCDP is a yearlong, cohort-based experience that prepares 25 mid-career librarians from historically underrepresented racial and ethnic groups from across the U.S. and Canada to take on leadership positions in their careers and the profession at large. The program provides its fellows with professional development, education, mentorship and sponsorship while building a network of BIPOC peers and leaders.

Kennedy earned a Bachelor of Music from Southeastern Louisiana University, a Master of Music from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Master of Science in Library Science from the University of North Texas and his Doctor of Musical Arts from Texas Tech University. Kennedy currently serves as past chair of the Texas chapter of the Music Library Association (TMLA) and as a member of the encoding standards subcommittee of the Music Library Association (MLA) Cataloging and Metadata Committee. He has previously served as the continuing education coordinator for Music OCLC Users Group (MOUG), on the program committee for both the TMLA and MOUG programs, and on MLA's Dena Epstein Award Committee for Archival and Library Research in American Music. At SMU, he serves as co-chair of the critical cataloging task force, a member of the cataloging and database maintenance team, and served previously as professional training co-chair of the SMU Black Faculty and Staff Association.



JUSTIN PATTY '23 WINS WEIL AWARD FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Justin Patty '23 won the 2022 Larrie and Bobbi Weil Undergraduate Research Award for excellence in library research with his history paper "Arthur Cotton and the Development of Public Works."

A graduate of Little Rock Christian Academy in Little Rock, Arkansas, Patty is a Dedman College Scholar who plans to major in chemistry and biology with a minor in Spanish at SMU. He was nominated by SMU professor of history Jo Guldi.

The Larrie and Bobbi Weil Undergraduate Research Award for excellence in library research is awarded annually to recognize student research that demonstrates depth and breadth in the use of library research materials and clear evidence of thoughtful command of these resources. Winning students receive a \$500 prize, an opportunity to be published in the *SMU Journal of Undergraduate Research* and the winning paper will be placed in the SMU Archives in DeGolyer Special Collections Library and online in SMU Scholar. The award is named after Larrie and Bobbi Weil, longtime library supporters and board members. Larrie Weil has chaired the SMU Libraries Executive Board for the past two years.



Beachum Family Collection of Black artists on exhibit at Hamon Arts Library

On February 18, Hamon Arts Library opened the exhibit *Narrative as Reality: A World Reimagined/ Selections from the Jessica and Kelvin Beachum Family Collection*. Featuring the work of artists including Dominic Chambers, Ryan Cosbert, Robert Hodge, Nelson Makamo, Delita Martin, Sungi Mlengeya, Mario Moore, Robert Pruitt, Athi-Patra Ruga and Ferrari Sheppard, the installation constitutes only a small subset of the Beachums' collection.

Jessica and Kelvin Beachum '10, '12 approach their acquisition of artworks with roots in the personal. "We want to look back on each piece and know it represents something we love, something we remember, something historically significant, or something we never want to forget," the Beachums said. "The intergenerational component is what is most special."

Kelvin is a 10-year NFL veteran currently playing for the Arizona Cardinals. Jessica is a Dallas native and Baylor graduate with an MS in Science Healthcare Delivery from ASU.



Curator, Valerie Gillespie explains that this exhibition "addresses the stories surrounding the Black experience and provides a striking visual exploration of the African Diaspora across moments in time. Content takes shape in art making when form and pigment command space to surrender to an artist's intent." She offers that "This exhibition invites the viewer to become part of the story through each composition."

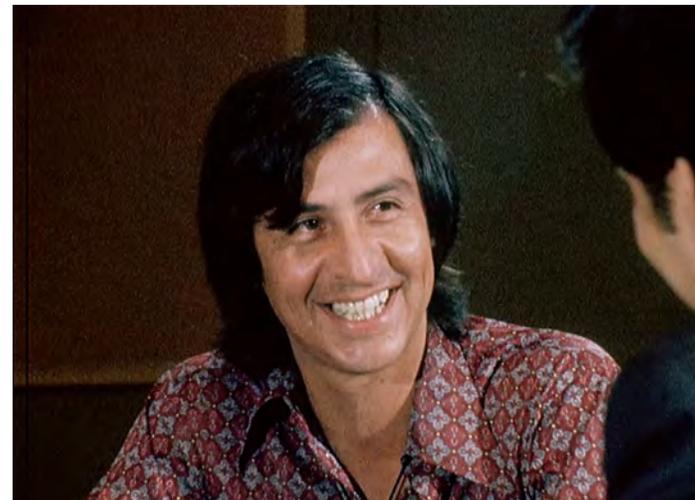
SMU hosted two of the artists to work with students and the greater community. Based in New Haven, Connecticut, recent MFA Yale graduate, Dominic Chambers visited the Hilltop in late March and met with students in the Matthews Scholars Program and with Ray Jordan's Civil

Rights pilgrimage class. Houston-based interdisciplinary artist Robert Leroy Hodge visited SMU in April to discuss his work.

The exhibition runs through May 22, 2022.



Left Arizona Cardinals offensive tackle Kelvin Beachum '10, '12 and his wife, Jessica, stand in the Hawn Gallery among pieces from their notable collection. **Center** Curator Valerie Gillespie talks to a young patron at the exhibit opening. **Above right** Kelvin visits with SMU football player and artist Ra Kazadi and other guests during the opening reception.



Jones Collection digitizes rare KERA footage

KERA, the North Texas public television and radio station serving Dallas-Fort Worth, and SMU have had a long and productive relationship for decades beginning in 1993, when KERA donated about 700 moving-image assets to the University. Recently, SMU Libraries announced that a new partnership with KERA will enable Hamon Arts Library's G. William Jones Film and Video Collection to digitize, preserve and make available the footage from the KERA Collection.

"These types of moving image collections are rare, culturally significant and unique," said Jolene de Verges, director of Hamon Arts Library. "They provide historical and sociological documentation of local, regional, national and international events. These decades [covered by the collection] were a turbulent period in American cities. In these years, Dallas grew from a city of regional importance to one of international importance."

The digitization process will enable researchers, historians and interested patrons to access Dallas' rich history as seen through the KERA lens. A playlist with the first 200 clips from KERA can be found on SMU's Jones Collection YouTube page. The collection is particularly strong in highlighting successful women. KERA was unique in its coverage of these powerful female figures, to whom many other stations did not give air time. For example, one KERA clip includes a profile on Federal Judge Sarah T. Hughes, who swore President Lyndon B. Johnson in as president on Air Force One after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. She is the only woman ever to swear in a president. Visitors to the Jones Collection YouTube page can enjoy video clips focused on community activists like Thelma Washington and Lucy Phelps-Patterson.

Above Included among the many clips in the Jones collection is an interview with Emilio Delgado aka Luis from Sesame Street.

REMEMBERING JERRY BYWATERS COCHRAN

Longtime supporter of SMU Libraries, the arts and education, Jerry Bywaters Cochran died on January 20, 2022. The daughter of Gerald "Jerry" Bywaters, a well-known artist, director of the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts and professor at SMU and Mary Bywaters, a musician, Jerry Bywaters Cochran came by her love of the arts honestly. Cochran was an accomplished dancer studying with luminaries like Martha Graham and Antony Tudor and graduating from Juilliard. She won a Fulbright fellowship to study with Marcel Marceau in Paris and a Rockefeller Foundation grant to teach stage movement at the Dallas Theater Center, where she served as a member of the company. She founded the modern dance program at TCU in 1968 and there, established two scholarship endowments.

The Bywaters family's impact on SMU's Meadows School was profound. In addition to the Bywaters Special Collections, started by her father's donation of his work and papers to the University, Jerry Bywaters Cochran also donated the Calloway and Jerry Bywaters Cochran family papers to Hamon's Bywaters Special Collections.



"I have always thought that Jerry grew up during the most energetic and productive periods of Dallas arts, especially, with her father as director of the museum. She met so many famous artists and dancers, including Diego Rivera," says Ellen Niewyk, former curator of Bywaters Special Collections at Hamon Arts Library.

Bridwell Library hosts bookbinding competition

This May, SMU's Bridwell Library will once again host the Helen Warren DeGolyer Triennial Exhibition and Competition for American Bookbinding.

Established in 1995 and occurring every three years, the event includes a competition, exhibition and conference aimed at inspiring and encouraging the craft and art of bookbinding in the United States.

The DeGolyer competition invites bookbinders to propose a design for a book held by Bridwell Library Special Collections with the winner receiving a commission to produce his or her proposed design. The competition usually includes 10–25 submissions

for judging with one awarded a grand prize and others garnering prizes for excellence in fine binding and design.

“Every entry is notable in its own way—some are obviously more skilled and creative than others, which is why we give prizes,” said Anthony Elia, director of Bridwell Library and J.S. Bridwell Foundation Endowed Librarian. “There is a panel of judges, which reviews submissions and determines the top three winners for that year’s selections. A highly intricate binding of a Borges volume is one of the most intriguing and outstanding bindings that I’ve seen.”

Completed commissions of previous DeGolyer award winners and a selection of competition entries, including design proposals and sample bindings, will be exhibited in the Elizabeth Perkins Prothro Galleries at Bridwell Library following the competition.

Above Workshops like clasp making with Jesse Hunt and Edge Gilding with Juliayn Coleman instruct participants on how to create objects of beauty and knowledge. **Left** Aimee Lee teaches attendees the techniques of Jiseung, the art of Korean paper weaving. **Below** Instructor Bhavna Mehta helps students in the art of paper cutting to produce accordion books.



"A Festival of Form" brings an exploration of art to campus

This March, Bridwell Library and Perkins Sacred Music Program joined forces to present a unique week of events in *A Festival of Form: John Cage & the Infinite Human*. The three-day (March 7–9) affair highlighted Perkins' exhibits *Symbiosis of Script, Font, and Form* and *Theology & Art of the Score*.

Festival attendees explored the ideas and limits of “form” in art, literature, theology, religion and music. The festival featured the work of John Cage (1912–1992), whose understanding of musical and artistic form dismantled the perceived notions of categories and classifications. It also addressed questions of how to approach the living spaces of our surroundings in a lingering pandemic-exhausted world, including: What are the limits and definitions of our workplaces, our traditions, our religious affiliations and denominations?



With lectures, panel discussions, an opera screening and four musical performances, the festival had something for every music lover. Kyle Gann, the composer, music critic, and Bard college professor was a guest artist. The centerpiece of the event was conceived by Perkins associate professor of sacred music Christopher Anderson, who performed an extraordinary rendering of the monumental *Organ²/ASLSP As Slow As Possible* in Perkins Chapel – which lasted nonstop for 16 hours and set a new world record for performing this piece.

Top Dr. Christopher Anderson performed John Cage's *Organ²/ASLSP* ~ “As Slow as Possible” in Perkins Chapel, inadvertently breaking a world record for the longest performance of the piece by a single performer. **Above right** Dr. Courtney Brown performs *A Sonic Welcome to A Festival of Form (“Hadrosaur Variations II” — Homage to John Cage & the Dinosaur)*

ART GREENHAW '76 CONCERT USHERS IN CHRISTMAS AT PERKINS

When Grammy Award-winning musician and record producer Art Greenhaw read about the gift of the World Methodist Museum to SMU's Bridwell Library, he immediately reached out to learn more from Anthony Elia, director of Bridwell Library and J.S. Bridwell Foundation Endowed Librarian. Greenhaw, a Dallas native and SMU graduate with a B.A. in political science who took piano classes from SMU's music department as a child, and Elia began a correspondence based on a shared interest in music and history.

“Our shared interest in music and history led us to collaborate on the December 16th concert: *A Cool Yule Christmas!*” said Elia.

Greenhaw and his band, the Light Crust Doughboys, played to a packed house in Perkins Chapel. The musical group has been together for over 90 years, making them, in Elia's words, “the longest running popular band in the world.” Elia found himself leading a singalong just before the concert at Greenhaw's request. “I did [so] with some trepidation; especially knowing that I'm not always in tune!” said Elia. “I got to wear a cowboy hat and bolo tie for the first time in my life.”



Celebrating Carrie Marcus Neiman

When Jerrie Marcus Smith needed to conduct research for her new book *A Girl Called Carrie: The Visionary Who Created Neiman Marcus and Set the Standard for Fashion*, she turned to the Stanley Marcus Papers here at the DeGolyer. The rich collection of Neiman Marcus history included materials about Carrie Marcus Neiman, who, with her brother Herbert Marcus, Sr. and her husband Al Neiman, founded the iconic luxury specialty store Neiman Marcus in 1907. The newly unearthed details about Carrie Marcus Neiman and other women who were integral to the founding of Neiman Marcus inspired the DeGolyer to launch both an exhibit and an event.

“Not only did Carrie’s story need to be told and recognized, we also had to materials in the collection from other women who made significant contributions to Neiman Marcus – Moira Cullen, Kay Kerr, Eleanor Le Maire and Helen Corbitt,” said DeGolyer Library Director Russell Martin. “It all came together on short notice, thanks to the hard work of Anne Peterson, Allison V. Smith, Michael Thomas, and many others.”

The exhibit, *An Eye For Elegance: Carrie Marcus Neiman and the*

Women Who Shaped Neiman Marcus ran December 2, 2021, to January 30, 2022 in Hillcrest Exhibition Hall, and focused on Carrie, who along with buyer Moira Cullen, fashion promotions director Kay Kerr, interior designer Eleanor LeMaire and food director Helen Corbitt, shaped the fashions and tastes of Neiman’s clients and Dallas society. More than 1,000 people attended the exhibit, a record for DeGolyer, tempting them to leave it up as a permanent installation. The exhibit provided a better understanding



of the role that Carrie – and other dedicated and talented women – played in the competitive world of Dallas business.

The opening reception attracted over 150 attendees, including Jerrie Marcus Smith and other family members as well as Geoffroy van Raemdonck, CEO of Neiman Marcus.

“Neiman Marcus has played such an important role in the cultural and economic life of Dallas, especially in the period under review, from the founding to midcentury,” said Martin. “Visitors repeatedly expressed a sense of pleasure at seeing photographs and documents illustrating the store’s activity during those years. Many had worked at Neiman Marcus. Most had shopped there and had fond memories of the people and goods that were part of the Neiman Marcus experience.”

Above (Top) Jerrie Marcus Smith and Shannon Wynne at the opening of “An Eye for Elegance” (Bottom) Iconic fashion pieces, some owned by Carrie Marcus Neiman, on loan from the UNT Texas Fashion Collection complemented the exhibit. **Bottom left** Guests mingle and explore the exhibit during the opening reception.

Railroad collection finds a home at DeGolyer Library

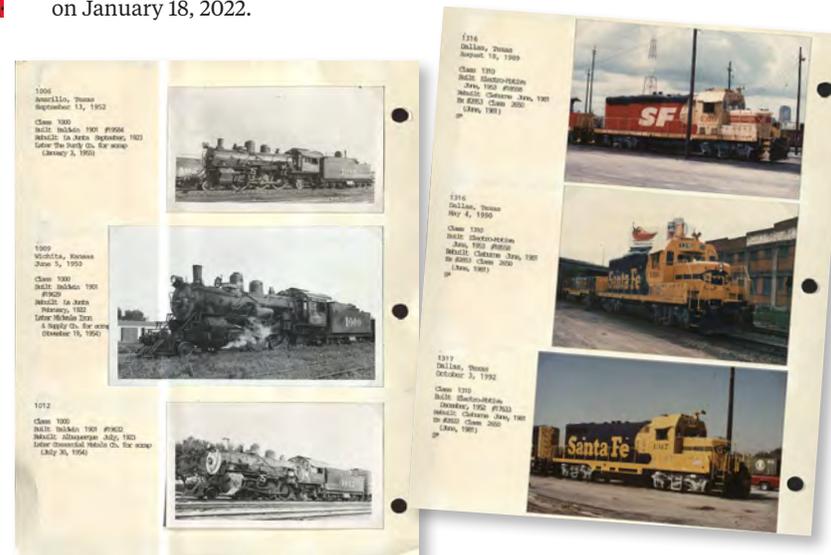
DeGolyer Library welcomes the Don Ross Collection of Railroad Photographs to its new home in SMU’s special collections.

Wisconsin native Don Ross (1931–2022) had a lifelong love affair with railroads. He attributes this passion to a seminal present in 1937: “I got a train for Christmas. It was a Lionel 2-4-2 shaped like the Pennsy streamlined K4. It came with a tank car, box car, and caboose.” Thus, a railroad fan was born.

Ross decided to try his hand at railroad photography after reading an issue of *Railroad Magazine* in 1946. He enrolled in and then dropped out of Marquette University and applied for a job with the Milwaukee Road, where he became a clerk and dispatcher. Eventually, he took a job with REA Express and was transferred to the Dallas office in 1965, where he lived until his death on January 18, 2022.

After more than 70 years of collecting and taking photographs, Ross had amassed an impressive collection of photographs, slides, timetables, calendars, manuals, magazines and books devoted to railroad history. He generously donated this collection to the DeGolyer Library in August 2021.

The core of the collection consists of over 30,000 slides and over 50,000 prints. The range of the collection is impressive, from the Aachener Strassenbahn (Aachen, Germany) to Zidell Explorations (Tacoma, Washington). All of the main lines are here (e.g., Southern Pacific, Missouri-Kansas-Texas, New York Central, Atlantic Coast Line, Pennsylvania) but also represented are the more obscure short lines and industrial railroads that have interesting and colorful stories attached to them. The emphasis is on the diesel era, from 1950 onwards.



Above These sample pages from the Don Ross scrapbooks include steam and diesel locomotives of the AT&SF Railroad, with basic information on their manufacture and use, including locomotive numbers, manufacturers, date built, date rebuilt, and date last in service (when known).

DEGOLYER EXHIBIT EXPLORES EXPERIENCE OF BLACK AMERICANS

On February 17, 2022, a new exhibit opened at SMU’s DeGolyer Library. *Black Lives, Black Letters: Primary Sources in African American History and Literature*, which runs through April 14th, 2022, highlights the range of DeGolyer Library’s holdings on this topic and features rare items from the library’s collections including books, pamphlets, broadsides, sheet music, prints, photographs, manuscripts and ephemera. *Black Lives, Black Letters* documents aspects of the Black experience in America, from the colonial period to the present, and highlights many well known figures, including Phillis Wheatley, Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois, Martin Luther King, Jr., Toni Morrison, and Barack Obama, among others.



The exhibition was designed to complement a lecture at SMU on March 24 by Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Annette Gordon-Reed, whose recent book, *On Juneteenth*, is both a personal memoir of growing up in segregated Texas and a profound meditation on the meaning of our shared past.

“All the major currents of American history flow through Texas,” she writes. The exhibit attempts to illustrate that fact, bringing attention to important, previously overlooked voices and events.

A new, improved library for Business students

Business students, faculty and friends are abuzz with the coming renovation and expansion of SMU's Cox School of Business. SMU's Business Library will share in the benefit from this new construction to the delight of librarians and library visitors alike.

"The Business Library is going to have a beautiful new facility with arched ceiling architecture and comfortable seating for study spaces, including easy access to librarians for research assistance," said Sandy Miller, director of the Business Library. "In addition, we will have a Reading Room across from our main entrance as our new quiet area. The Kitt Investing and Trading Center will be completely new and larger with more seating capacity and the latest technology."

"...we look forward to increased opportunities for networking and casual encounters to bring an even greater sense of community to the Cox family."

— Sandy Miller

Construction had not yet begun at the beginning of the spring semester, but eagle eyes could catch sample brick color selections in place near the Fincher Building. The groundbreaking ceremony for the renovation and expansion is slated



for May 6, with hopes for completion by fall 2024. For more information about the construction and how it impacts the Business Library as the renovation progresses, Mustangs and friends can visit the Business Library website, which has the most up to date information as well as news and event listings.

"We hope this new library will be a central location for librarians, students, faculty and staff to come together for research and collaboration on projects, assignments and presentations," said

Miller. "Located just off the main commons area and near the new food court, we look forward to increased opportunities for networking and casual encounters to bring an even greater sense of community to the Cox family."

Patrons seeking to use the Business Library should head to the Hamon Arts Library beginning this summer, where the Business Library will be housed during renovations.

Above Artist renderings of the new Business Library show improved spaces for collaboration and study.

Ramón Garcia wins Emerging Leader Award

Ramón Garcia, a former research and user experience librarian participating in SMU Libraries Internship Program, was granted a prestigious ALA Emerging Leader Award this spring. The American Library Association (ALA) Emerging Leaders program is described as "a leadership development program which enables newer library workers from across the country to participate in problem-solving work groups, network with peers, gain an inside look into ALA structure, and have an opportunity to serve the profession in a leadership capacity."

Garcia won the award based on his stellar work at SMU Libraries, which included developing documents and training materials to help librarians best navigate changes to SMU's public service platforms and serving the greater SMU community. "Ramón is a thoughtful communicator and a talented researcher," said Jonathan McMichael, undergraduate success librarian and director of the research and user experience internship program. "He was a tremendous asset on the research desk and his interactions with

patrons still serve as models that we use to train new hires and interns. He is one of the most talented young librarians I have had a chance to work with. He took on librarian-level responsibilities in research support, library instruction and project management and made tremendous strides in all."

As an Emerging Leader, Garcia will be one of the participants on the fast track to ALA committee volunteerism as well as other professional library-related organizations. With his fellow winners, he will be invited to attend the LibLearnX event hosted by the ALA, which is an online learning opportunity and networking environment.



UNDERWOOD LAW LIBRARY CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Dedman School of Law's Underwood Law Library celebrated its 50th anniversary of providing outstanding services to Mustangs on March 31, 2022. Mustangs, friends and supporters gathered in the library's Hillcrest Classroom with overflow in the Walsh Classroom. Following a brief musical performance by two highly talented 3Ls, there was a talk by nationally recognized constitutional law scholar Lawrence Lessig III, the Roy L. Furman Professor of Law and Leadership at Harvard Law School. Lunch was provided, and a brief reception followed.

SMU Libraries Exhibits

FEATURED EXHIBIT

Octavio Medellín: Spirit and Form

February 6, 2022 to January 15, 2023

Dallas Museum of Art

A noted Mexican American artist and former instructor 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.



In Search of Belonging: LGBT student organizing on the Hilltop, from the 1980's to now

April 23rd to May 23rd

Hamon Arts Library

In Search of Belonging explores stories of LGBTQ+ organizing — struggles for equality and recognition — through archival documents researched in the SMU Archives and oral history.



"I'm tired of being unseen, like completely invisible. There's just too much history in America, too much history on this campus, where Black people, Black women, have paved, carved the way for anything and everything. And I feel like they did that for me. And yet, there's still further to go."

- Kayla Earl, '23

Send Me a Postcard! Women on the Road across 19th -20th Century America

May 1, 2022 to August 31, 2022

DeGolyer Library

Send Me a Postcard! Women on the Road across 19th -20th Century America highlights women's voices and their stories from roadways across America.



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

February 18, 2022 to May 22, 2022

Hamon Arts Library

A glimpse into the Jessica and Kelvin Beachum Family Collection shows an artistic world of hope, Black joy, reality, and aspiration.



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