When things get stressful in the Provost’s Office, my two assistants know what I am likely to say the moment an appointment or meeting is canceled: “I’m going to the library.”

I like everything about libraries. I love the way they smell. Old books, when properly cared for, smell homey, not musty — and what smells nicer than a newly printed book or journal? I love the peace and quiet libraries contain. Not unlike churches, temples, and other holy places, they provide a refuge from the trivial, mundane, and often stressful aspects of our daily lives. Most important, I love the wisdom and wit, the information and inspiration libraries house.

Although I enjoy working in the reading rooms of massive, closed-stack libraries or rare book libraries, I most love open-stack collections in which you can wander from floor to floor, shelf to shelf, check out books you’re looking for, and find still others that almost seem to have been looking for you. I’ve been known to take a volume of poetry from the third floor to the fourth floor only to spend my hour away from the provost’s office reading a book on India I found lying on a table by one of the big windows.

Paul Fry, a famous literary scholar at Yale who also happens to be an old friend, calls this “inadvertent discovery.” Have you ever gone into the stacks looking for two or three books on a subject, sat on the floor with those particular volumes only to find them terribly disappointing, and then just happened to find exactly what you’re looking for in some other nearby book? I’ve even found what I was looking for in a book that fell from the shelf behind my back. True believers in the Library of Congress or Dewey Decimal system of cataloging would tell you this cannot occur. But remember, they work in libraries and, therefore, are probably less open to the mysteries and miracles of libraries than the rest of us are.

That’s what I like best about libraries. Hundreds of thousands of people — some dead, others living, but every one of them lively of mind — await your visit, whether or not you think you are seeking their thoughts and ideas. It sounds paradoxical, but libraries — quiet, peaceful, and relaxing as they are — are also, in another sense, crowded arenas of never-ending discovery.
Laura Bush Promenade continued from page 1

Texas literature, she helped organize the Texas Book Festival in 1996 to celebrate the writings of Texas authors and to raise funds for public libraries. In the past three years the festivals have raised $600,000 in grants for 230 public libraries in Texas.

Laura Bush’s love for the written word is reflected in quotes from the Bible, poets, and philosophers engraved on limestone benches outlining the promenade. Former President George Bush and his wife, Barbara, gave a bench dedicated to their daughter-in-law and their daughter who died of leukemia at age three. It says: “In honor of our Laura and in memory of our Robin.”

At the dedication Laura Bush said she was grateful for long-time college friends, seven of whom donated funds to the Fondren Library Center and Laura Bush Promenade in their friend’s honor. Five benches on the promenade are inscribed with their names and favorite quotations, including one from Abraham Lincoln that states, “The better part of one’s life consists of his friendships.”

“One of the most important elements of my SMU experience was the friends I made,” Laura Bush says, “and they are my close friends to this day.”

Library plaza honors faculty

At the dedication of Fondren Library Center in November 1998, Associate Professor of Economics Tom Fomby admired the landscaped plazas leading to the library sponsored by the Friends of the SMU Libraries and the class of 1999. What better place to honor faculty, the current Faculty Senate president thought, than at the entrance to the library?

Following his initiative, the Faculty Senate passed a resolution in December 1998 to sponsor a $30,000 fund drive to name the middle bench plaza at the west entrance of Fondren Library Center in honor of past, present, and future faculty members. Faculty members may be honored with an engraved brick for $250 each, a larger brick paver for $500, or an inscribed limestone bench with a plaque for $5,000.

Because construction and maintenance endowment requirements for Fondren Library Center have been met, funds raised for the Faculty Plaza will go toward the SMU Faculty Library Endowment Fund, which supports library acquisitions.

“This brings to the campus a much-needed symbol of the faculty that recognizes the important role they play in the life of the University,” Fomby says. “The opportunity to honor faculty will bring about a bonding no one has thought about before. Given its location between the Class of 1999 and the Friends of the SMU Libraries Plazas, the addition of the Faculty Plaza represents a bonding among students, faculty, and friends of the library in common support of the Central University Libraries and the life of the mind.”

Former students, alumni, colleagues, friends, or family may honor faculty members. Any current or past, benefits-eligible, full-time professor, administrator, lecturer, or artist who has taught at least one semester at SMU is eligible for recognition. Adjunct professors who have served the University at least 10 years and are nominated by two full-time faculty members are eligible for recognition as well. Future faculty and their students and friends will have an opportunity to participate with a yearly installation of new bricks and pavers until the plaza is complete.

Current faculty and members of the Retired Faculty Association are leading the fund drive for the plaza. Committee members include Ed Beihl, chair of chemistry; Barbara Brinson, associate professor of music education; Alan Brown, chair of psychology; Bill Babcock, professor of church history; Maggie Dunham, associate professor of computer science and engineering; Tom Fomby, associate professor of economics; Jim Hopkins, professor of history; David Johnson, professor of mechanical engineering; Carter Murphy, chair of the Retired Faculty Association; Paul Rogers, professor of law; and Marion Sobol, professor of information systems and operations management.

For more information, call Tricia Barnett, Office of Development, at 214-768-2691.
SMU libraries embrace merger mentality of print and technology

Guest columnist for Annotations is Camila A. Alire, Ph.D., a member of the SMU Libraries Executive Board and dean of University Libraries at Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

Recently I was asked to give the wrap-up speech at a conference on the electronic book. In preparation I was reflecting on the latest wonders of our library profession. As a novice professional, I never thought that our profession and academic libraries would experience the transformation we are now experiencing. It is, indeed, the most exciting of times for information professionals and services.

If one would accept the broadest definition of culture as the development or improvement of the mind by education or training, then I maintain that academic libraries have experienced the merging of two information tools – print and technology – as cultural mediums. The use of these tools is primarily to provide the best services available for our academic users. This integration has led to an exciting life for academic library administrators, librarians, teaching and research faculty, and students.

What makes it so exciting? It’s about our evolutionary change in the information age. Academic libraries have gone from only being a repository of printed knowledge to embracing the virtual/digital library concept to expand the formats for sharing that knowledge.

SMU’s Fondren Library Center is a beautiful facility. And yet, library administrators understand that time is money. If it is more convenient for our users to do their library research remotely via electronic means, then so be it. The Fondren Library Center, through its new integrated online library system, its network connections for laptops, and its digitization projects, has assumed this print and electronic merger role.

What else does this merger really mean for the academic library? It has serious implications for academic library human resources. Our staff has to be retooled and retrained as mediators, navigators, and instructors of new information formats that support the curricular and research needs of our students and faculty. For example, as television commercials continue to perpetuate the notion of a librarian as a dour, bespectacled female, the reality in our academic libraries is that our librarian is navigating seamlessly through a myriad of databases and online records and printing out exacting results. She hands over a printout to the uninitiated user without ever going to a shelf, opening a book, or batting an eye. That is what all the excitement is about.

Obviously, there are other challenges such as the diversity of formats, fiscal constraints, copyright, intellectual property, and privacy issues. There also are well-inten-

Friends of the SMU Libraries programs feature rare books and remembrances

The Friends of the SMU Libraries have spent the fall learning how to preserve photographs, documents, and tapes; touring the homes of well-known authors in the Hudson and Connecticut River Valleys; and hearing from Gregg Cantrell, author of a new biography on Stephen F. Austin. Winter and spring programs will include a look at rare books and a remembrance of Eleanor Roosevelt by her granddaughter. Following are the remaining Friends programs for 2000:

Great Books for Great Owners: Notable Provenances of Bridwell Treasures
January 31, 7 p.m., Blue Room, Bridwell Library
Eric White, curator of special collections at Bridwell Library, discusses the earliest owners of some of Bridwell’s treasures, including a wedding gift from the Archbishop of

continued on page 4
**Friends Programs continued from page 3** Canterbury in 1418. The lecture is presented as part of the Bridwell Bibliophiles Lecture and Workshop Series.

**The Book Road Show**
March 14, 7 p.m., Texana Room, DeGolyer Library
Members are invited to bring two or three items for appraisal by local book experts. At the end of the hour, each appraiser will talk about the most interesting and unique items they examined.

**Musicology Meets the Concert Hall: The Libraries and Program Notes**
March 28, 7 p.m., Texana Room, DeGolyer Library
Laurie Shulman, program annotator for the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Voices of Change, and the Dallas Chamber Music Society, speaks on how her background in historical musicology and extensive research in the Hamon Arts Library leads to the program notes well known to Dallas concert-goers.

**Annual Dinner Meeting, ”A Remembrance of Eleanor”**
April 18, 6 p.m., Umphrey Lee Ballroom, reservations required
Elizabeth Kelly, granddaughter of Eleanor Roosevelt, gives a slide presentation, “A Remembrance of Eleanor.”

The Friends of the SMU Libraries is dedicated to promoting the resources, services, and operations of the 10 University libraries. Through a series of programs each year, the Friends provides opportunities for book lovers to become acquainted with the resources of the SMU libraries. The organization also has provided more than $300,000 to fund materials, library services, and special projects. Members at the associate ($60 per year) and higher levels receive borrowing privileges at the Central University and Bridwell libraries. For more information or to join the Friends of the SMU Libraries, call 214-768-3225.

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**Friends of the SMU Libraries award 1999 grants**

The Friends of the SMU Libraries awarded $37,144 in grants to the Central University Libraries in 1999. The funds were used to obtain resources ranging from a gold rush memoir to software for students with learning differences.

**Friends of the SMU Libraries award 1999 grants**

- **$2,500 to Fondren Library Reference Services** to acquire the prize-winning *American National Biography*, the first biographical dictionary of this scope to be published in more than 60 years.
- **$2,230 to the Science and Engineering Library** to purchase reference materials that support research and study in environmental engineering, geology, and paleontology.
- **$2,000 to Central University Libraries** for assistive technology software. As of spring 1998, 250 SMU students were identified with specific learning differences — more than 150 had attention deficit disorders and others had visual, verbal, mobility, and health impairments.

**Central University Library Statistics**

- **1998-99**
  - Books: 1,028,506
  - Volumes: 2,445,835
  - Books: 1,028,506
  - Volumes: 2,445,835
  - Staff: 77.5
  - Classes: 131
  - User education classes: 1,879 attended
  - 131 classes
  - Expenditures:
    - Staff: $77.5
    - Classes: $131
    - User education:
      - 1,879 attended

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**In Memoriam**

SMU benefactor Charles E. Selecman ('51) died September 20, 1999. In November 1998 he and his wife, Barbara, funded the cupola topping the Fondren Library Center. The Selecman Tower honors his grandfather, Charles C. Selecman, the third president of SMU, and his father, Frank A. Selecman, a 1922 SMU graduate. “We all considered SMU to be our University,” he said at the building dedication.

“With the death of Charles Selecman, the Central University Libraries have lost a true friend,” Central University Librarian Gillian McCombs says.
Information service supports Dallas businesses

On his first day in graduate school for library sciences, Devertt Bickston asked why librarians did not sell their services to the business community.

"I was told it would never work," he recalls.

But Bickston has made business service work as director of the Industrial Information Services (IIS) program sponsored by the SMU libraries. The IIS makes available the vast resources of the libraries to businesses throughout North Texas.

Bickston was named the director of IIS in 1970. It was formed in 1966 as part of a government initiative to channel the results of tax-supported industrial research to small businesses and entrepreneurs.

In its 33 years of operation, the IIS has provided Dallas-area businesses with nearly 117,000 requested publications and completed nearly 5,000 confidential custom research reports to help solve problems or take advantage of business opportunities.

Originally the IIS program was funded equally by members' user fees and the U.S. Department of Commerce. Today users pay an annual membership fee in addition to paying for specific services they use. A variety of industries use IIS, including electronics, telecommunications, oil and gas, food, aerospace, and legal services. Current members of IIS include Texas Instruments, Mobil, Exxon, Raytheon, Lockheed Martin, and Dallas Semiconductor.

Although the service supports the research needs of small businesses that do not have in-house libraries, companies of all sizes benefit from IIS. "No company can have everything it needs in its own library," Bickston says.

Bickston and his four-person staff take advantage of the resources of all SMU libraries to fill requests. The most common requests are for information on electronics technology, patent infringement, and on the geology of countries such as Russia and China, he says.

The service not only provides access to more than 3 million books and periodicals in SMU's libraries, but also it acquires information resources from anywhere in the world through partnerships that SMU maintains with other libraries and through the Internet.

With the growth of the Internet, many people mistakenly believe they can find everything they need there, Bickston says. "What they don’t know is that much of the most valuable, reliable, and authoritative information on the Web is only available for a fee. We can help clients access that information as cheaply as possible."

For more information on the Industrial Information Services, call 214-768-2271.

Historian uses SMU libraries to research U.S. ethnic history


"I spent all my career in libraries that were struggling," says Countryman, University Distinguished Professor of History in Dedman College. "The SMU collection is strong in the ways it ought to be."

In *Americans*, Countryman chronicles the emergence of an American identity, born from the ethnic collision of Europeans, Africans, and Native Americans. His detailed social history explores the experiences of Europeans, slaves, abolitionists, voteless women, and Native Americans and how they ultimately came to share an identity.

To write the book, Countryman delved into the huge body of work on American social history, with an emphasis on books published by university presses found in the collections of SMU libraries.

"I read as much and as intensely as I could and saw repeating patterns of ideas," he says. "The identity we share comes out of conflicts."

Countryman is an expert on Colonial American history and American social history. He has taught at SMU since 1991 and held faculty positions at the University of Warwick in England and the University of Canterbury in New Zealand. His many awards include the 1982 Bancroft Prize and fellowships from the Royal Historical Society and the American Antiquarian Society.

Countryman's current research, "Mississippi: An American Place," uses the premise of colliding cultures to study the development of American society in Mississippi from 1790 to 1860. "This is a rerun of *Americans* using intense primary sources," he says. Sources such as microfiche records of Mississippi state archives, plantation and church records, U.S. mortality schedules, and historic medical records fill his office shelves.

A native New Yorker who has spent many years abroad, Countryman is fascinated with the theme of "being American." "If I, a white American, would understand what shaped me, I must understand people who may not look like me but whose history is fundamentally, inextricably, and forever intertwined with my own," he says in the preface of his book. "Indeed, that history is my own."
DeGolyer Library dedicates Lao She collection

A collection of work by one of 20th-century China’s most accomplished writers was dedicated October 28 at the DeGolyer Library. Asian studies scholars gathered for the dedication and a symposium on the Britt Towery/Lao She collection, which includes more than 250 books, pamphlets, and periodicals containing works by and about Lao She.

Shu Qing Chun, better known by his pen name Lao She, was born into a Manchu family in Beijing in 1899. Some describe Lao She as the Mark Twain of China, while others compare him to Charles Dickens. Lao She considered himself a “teller of tales.” His stories and novels are filled with social satire and have been translated into numerous other languages. Among Lao She’s best-known work is his novel *Rickshaw Boy*. He died in 1966 in Peking at the hands of the Red Guards during China’s cultural revolution.

Britt E. Towery Jr., former director of Asian Studies at Baylor University, devoted 30 years of his life to missionary work in China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. In China he discovered the writings of Lao She and collected them. Through his contribution, the DeGolyer Library now houses one of North America’s largest collections on the works of Lao She.

The Towery/Lao She collection is available for scholarly research and is used by students taking courses in the Asian Studies program in Dedman College.

History graduate processes Stanley Marcus archives

At first glance the windowless basement room housing book and manuscript collections for the DeGolyer Library appears isolated. But not to Alex Lorch, who has spent the past year and a half delving into more than 400 gray boxes of the Stanley Marcus collection. Stanley Marcus, the legendary Neiman-Marcus executive and renowned Dallas civic leader, donated his papers to the DeGolyer Library in 1993. In these papers, Lorch has found an array of national events, international spectacle, local Dallas history, and colorful characters from the past half century.

Lorch completed his Master’s degree in history at SMU in May 1999 with a thesis on Marcus’ support of civil liberties and civil rights. He is responsible for processing the Stanley Marcus archives comprising correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings, and art posters.

Jackie Kennedy, Roger Staubach, Lyndon Johnson, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Christian Dior, Sophia Loren, Grace Kelly, Mamie Eisenhower, and Coco Chanel are among those who corresponded with Marcus during his tenure as Neiman-Marcus president, CEO, and chairman of the board emeritus.

The correspondence spans from 1950 to the present and documents Marcus’ business and civic affairs. Topics range from the anti-communist movement in Dallas to the Neiman-Marcus Fortnights to the civil rights movement. The overall scope of Marcus’ papers will provide researchers with information on various fields, including the fashion industry, business history, Dallas and U.S. history, civil rights, and the arts.

The first step in processing the collection is preservation, Lorch says. Staples are removed from acidic onion-skin Neiman-Marcus letterhead and correspondence is filed in categorized acid-free paper folders. Photographs are protected in plastic sheeting.

Lorch is creating a database of the contents in the thousands of folders the collection comprises. Before the collection is opened to researchers, he will produce a guide and index.

Funding for the preservation and processing of the Marcus collection was provided by Jo Ann and Sherrill Pettus and Stanley Marcus.

After spending months immersed in Marcus’ papers, Lorch has developed an admiration for the man many call “Mr. Dallas.”

“One of the things I admire is his concept of quality,” Lorch says. “I’ve taken on that sense of quality while working on his papers. Everything he did was very well done, not half done at all.”
University unveils new library information system

President R. Gerald Turner unveiled the University’s new library information system, PONI (Public Online Information), September 23 at the Hughes-Trigg Student Center.

Library staff demonstrated the capabilities of the new PONI system, which combines the catalogs of all the SMU libraries with the ability to serve as a gateway to electronic databases and digital documents.

“PONI is an example of SMU’s ongoing commitment to excellence in all aspects of teaching and research,” Turner says. “Our students and faculty, as well as members of the community, will benefit significantly from its wide accessibility, retrieval options, and ability to export data.”

Using the technology of the World Wide Web, at http://poni.smu.edu, anyone with an Internet connection and Web browser software can access PONI. The system can browse through the vast holdings in the University’s main libraries as well as link to its public holdings, including government documents. The PONI system also enables users to communicate directly with SMU librarians.

Users can select records from their search results to print, copy to computer disk, or send to their own e-mail addresses. Library patrons can review online lists of the items they have checked out, and authorized patrons can place holds on items already in circulation.

The unveiling was the culmination of nine months of intensive effort by SMU library staff to transfer data from the University’s aging NOTIS system to the new database server. For the change, two million bibliographic records were converted along with specifications for thousands of pieces of data regarding vendors, financial records, patrons, and items in circulation.

At the unveiling, Provost Ross Murfin recognized Gillian McCombs, Central University librarian; Gail Daly, Underwood Law Library director; Valerie Hotchkiss, Bridwell Library director; George Chisman, associate vice president, Information Technology Services; Mary Queryouze, project director and systems librarian; and the staff members from the SMU libraries and Information Technology Services who spent countless hours preparing for the conversion.

“The staff members of all the University libraries have done a tremendous job,” Gillian McCombs says. “The smooth transition is a result of their care and dedication.”

New journal database popular with faculty and students

In June SMU joined numerous academic libraries in the United States by subscribing to a new fully searchable database, JSTOR, short for “journal storage,” offers the full-text backfiles of more than 100 journals. The journals, selected from among the most important in their fields, cover an array of disciplines — from anthropology to sociology — and specialized areas such as African-American studies, Asian studies, and population/demographics.

JSTOR offers several advantages for SMU users, including access to issues dating back to 1838. For users connected to the SMU network, the database can be accessed from anywhere at any time.

“Many of the journals you can find in SMU’s library, and you can get all of them through interlibrary loan,” says Dennis Foster, chair of the English Department in Dedman College. “However, JSTOR gives you very rapid access to some journals that are hard to acquire, such as those from the 19th century.”

The historical depth of JSTOR makes it unique among other search engines. Other scholarly journal search engines go back only as far as the 1960s. JSTOR’s search feature also looks through all the journals for names and topics.

Foster advises his students to use JSTOR as a way to become familiar with scholarly literature. For his course on modern Gothic literature, his students searched JSTOR for related topics.

“It’s a very practical way to gain immediate access to what’s been written about a topic,” Foster says.

The papers of Dallas real estate magnate and civic leader Ebby Halliday are now part of DeGolyer Library’s Archives of Women of the Southwest collection. DeGolyer Library and Special Collections Director David Farmer, Halliday, and Central University Librarian Gillian M. McCombs attended a coffee April 13 in honor of her contribution. The archives include collections by and about women who have shaped Southwest culture.
1999-2000 Central University Library Exhibits

**Shouts from the Wall: Posters and Photographs Brought Home from the Spanish Civil War by American Volunteers**
Nov. 17, 1999 - Feb. 29, 2000
DeGolyer Library

**Texas Contributions to Etruscan Archaeology: The Legacy of Lucy Shoe Meritt**
Nov. 22, 1999 - Jan. 9, 2000
Hawn Gallery, Hamon Arts Library

**The Cattle Trade in the American West**
April - June 2000
DeGolyer Library

*Posters from the Spanish Civil War are on display at the DeGolyer Library.*