It was the best of times on Founders’ Day, Friday, April 15, 2016, as Central University Libraries (CUL) welcomed the community for the unveiling of the first phase of SMU’s Fondren Library renovation. It was no accident that donors and dignitaries gathered in front of the University’s first library building, created through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Fondren. It was also no accident that one of the hallmarks of the renovation was the return of the reading room to its original purpose – providing an inspirational and elegant space for reflection and silent study for all students and faculty, the iconic symbol of learning in academe.

As Shakespeare wrote in his play *The Tempest* — “what’s past is prologue” — and we are indebted to the vision and consistent support of the Fondren family and Foundation, the Hillcrest Foundation, the Hoblitzelle Foundation, the co-chairs of the CUL capital campaign committee – Ann Brookshire and Tav Lupton – and many other friends who have made the transformation possible.

In 1940, when Fondren Library was built, there were 100,000 books on the shelves with expansion room for up to 300,000. In 1998, the separate buildings were joined together into one complex of 268,000 square feet. Today, SMU’s collections number over four million volumes, with more than one million of those volumes being digital. Much of the library’s holdings can be accessed from mobile devices anywhere in the world there is a wireless signal.

If students can be reading e-books in the Residential Commons in their PJs, scanning the latest issue of *Nature* in Patagonia while wearing a parka and snow goggles, or examining geospatial maps while exploring the Acropolis, why does SMU still need a physical building, more print books and the restoration of inspirational spaces? Call it the information age or the digital age.

WELCOMING THAT

‘GREAT GOOD PLACE’

TO CAMPUS

Above: Taking part in the ribbon-cutting celebration of donors to the Fondren Library renovations were (from left) Gillian M. McCombs, Dean and Director, Central University Libraries; Celia Cark, great-granddaughter, and her mother, Sue Whitfield, granddaughter of W. W. and Ella Fondren, whose gift in 1938 established Fondren Library; Michael M. Boone, chair, SMU Board of Trustees; SMU President R. Gerald Turner; former First Lady and SMU Trustee Laura Bush; Caren H. Prothro, past chair, SMU Board of Trustees, and vice chair, SMU Libraries Executive Board; William T. Solomon, chair, Hoblitzelle Foundation; William W. Caruth, III, chair, Hillcrest Foundation; Carlton Adams, 2015-16 student body president; and Brad E. Cheves, vice president of development and external affairs at SMU.
age: regardless of the label, today’s knowledge-based economy depends on gathering and communicating large amounts of information, almost instantaneously. Knowledge is CUL’s business. What librarians do, and what users do in the library, however, is very different from 50 years ago, even from 15 years ago, and teaching digital literacy skills is an important part of CUL’s mission.

Weaving together architectural elements that are informed by retail, psychology, neuroscience and other disciplines, the library is evolving into a 21st century learning environment. Sociologist Ray Oldenburg talks about the concept of “the third space” – that “great good place” that unites community, has public character, is inclusive, accessible and accommodating. Fondren Library fills that need for a third space here on campus. We are the only 24/5 space available (at least when we are not under construction): students can hang out, consult with a librarian on a research topic, work on group study projects, pull 150 books off the shelves, create a business plan, rehearse a presentation, join a human rights mapathon, find a solitary nook for in-depth study, borrow a Chrome Book and pick up free earplugs. And, now that Phase I of the renovation is complete, they can walk into the new reading room, breathe deeply and say, “Yes! I feel just a little smarter, just a little more psyched to do to what I have to do” – and they will be confident that whatever they need will be here, or that we will be able to find it for them, because that is what we do. And of course, just in time for the fall semester, we opened another of Oldenburg’s “great good places” — the Starbucks Café!

There are so many who have supported us through this journey — SMU faculty, students and library staff are so grateful to all who have chosen to show their commitment to the University and its academic mission by supporting the Fondren Library renovation. Thank you for believing in the power of the library to make a difference in our students’ lives.

In October 1944, Winston Churchill made a speech to the House of Commons advocating the need to rebuild the Commons chamber after the 1941 bombing. His argument was to rebuild in a similar shape because “we shape our buildings, and afterwards our buildings shape us.” And so it will be with SMU’s beloved Fondren Library.

Gillian M. McCombs
Dean and Director, Central University Libraries

Dean McCombs delivered a version of this speech at the celebration of the completion of the first phase of the Fondren Library renovations on April 15, 2016.

1 Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities, p. 1, 1859.
2 William Shakespeare, The Tempest, Act 2, Scene 1, 1610-11.
4 http://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/building/palace/architecture/palacestructure/churchill/
After almost a year of reconfiguring, remodeling and reimagining, the first phase of the Fondren Library renovation was presented to the SMU community on April 15 at a ribbon-cutting ceremony staged on the majestic steps of the original Fondren Library building, dedicated in 1940.

“Magnificent,” “breathtaking” and “truly grand” are a sampling of the superlatives used by guests to describe their first impression of the three spaces unveiled that day: the restored Fondren Foundation Centennial Reading Room, the revamped lobby and the brand-new Hillcrest Foundation Exhibit Hall.

Among the University dignitaries participating was former First Lady Laura Bush ’68, an SMU trustee and alumna. “I have many happy memories of standing on these steps,” she said. “The Fondren Library is one of my favorite places on the SMU campus. I love visiting libraries where I am surrounded by books and authors.”

She also noted her appreciation for the Laura Bush Promenade at the main entrance to Fondren Library – created in 1999 by a gift from then-Gov. George W. Bush to honor his wife’s contributions to libraries and literature – and the strong partnership that has developed with SMU’s libraries and the George W. Bush Presidential Library.

SMU President R. Gerald Turner underscored the essential role Fondren Library plays in the academic life of the University. “The library here on the main quad is central to teaching and learning,” he said.

“The renovation is a successful balancing act that respects the history of the building, yet opens its doors to emerging technology,” Turner said. “The new spaces offer inspiring settings for study and exhibits, with access to the digital technology that is essential for contemporary research.”
A gem of a venue for DeGolyer’s treasures

With sophisticated finishes, abundant lighting and high-quality display cabinets, the new Hillcrest Foundation Exhibit Hall provides the optimal environment for exploring and contemplating the rare materials showcased in SMU’s premier exhibition space.

At the opening on April 15, guests had the opportunity to see the inaugural exhibit, “Books, Buildings and Benefactors.” Among the signature items from the DeGolyer Library’s collections on view were political memorabilia, such as a 1900 William Jennings Bryan presidential campaign poster; notable books, including first-edition works by William Faulkner and J.D. Salinger; and historic photos from the SMU Archives.

The exhibit stayed open during the summer, which allowed incoming SMU students and their families visiting campus for summer orientation to tour the new exhibit hall and learn about the history of their University.

Top Donors to the Fondren Library renovations were honored on April 15 during a celebration marking the completion of spaces in the first phase, including the new Hillcrest Foundation Exhibit Hall.

Above right The first exhibit in the new space continued through the summer. A new exhibit will be mounted in early fall.

Above left A wide range of historic materials from the DeGolyer Library’s special collections were showcased on the walls and in new display cases.
Nearing the finish line

Work continued through the spring and summer on the second phase of renovations leading up to a student-centered finale fête in September.

Among the new features are the Caren H. Prothro Learning Commons (see page 10), the Collaborative Commons and Starbucks®, and the Gillian M. McCombs Special Collections Reading Room, a beautifully appointed space for study and research made possible by a gift from Caren H. Prothro and the Vin and Caren Prothro Foundation and located on the third floor of the original Fondren Library building.

Classrooms for collaboration and individual study, librarian offices that accommodate one-on-one information assistance, a technology-enhanced group projects room that supports pedagogy and research, and other vital spaces in the final phase include:

- Mary Lynch Healey DeGolyer Library Director’s Office, given by Maureen Healy Decherd ’09 and Robert W. Decherd (opening in October)
- Ann Warmack Brookshire ’77 and Bradley W. Brookshire ’76 Family Classroom
- Friends of the SMU Libraries/Colophon Classroom
- Meredith and Jim Holbrook Family Conference Room
- Jo Ann Geurin Pettus ’69, ’70 Technology Enhanced Group Projects Room
- Carolyn Lupton Fondren Library Director’s Office, a gift of the T.C. Lupton, Jr. Family Foundation.
- Laurie L. Allen and Randolph F. Allen ’84 Reference Librarian Office
- Barbara D. Miercott and Clifford R. Miercott Reference Librarian Office
- Jeanne Roach Johnson ’54 Reference Librarian Suite
- Jennifer Burr Altabe ″78, ’81 and Peter A. Altabe Reference Librarian Office
- Becky L. Schergens ’82 Reference Librarian Office
- Carolyn Lupton Fondren Library Director’s Office, a gift of the T.C. Lupton, Jr. Family Foundation.
- Laurie L. Allen and Randolph F. Allen ’84 Reference Librarian Office
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- Becky L. Schergens ’82 Reference Librarian Office
- Carolyn Lupton Fondren Library Director’s Office, a gift of the T.C. Lupton, Jr. Family Foundation.

Chi Omega Arbor honors a century of scholarship

Enjoying the new Chi Omega Arbor are (from left) Central University Libraries’ Paulette Mulry ’83, Director of Development, and Gillian M. McCombs, Dean and Director, joined by Paula Wisenbaker Wisenbant ’71 and Juli Callan Harrison ’70, ’72, co-chairs of the Chi Omega Centennial Donation to SMU committee. Located at the east entrance to Fondren Library, across from the new Harold Clark Simmons Hall, the beautiful park-like space offers the perfect setting for conversation or contemplation. The Chi Omega Arbor honors the sorority’s rich history with SMU and its libraries. The University welcomed Chi Omega, its first sorority, to campus in March 1916. Thanks to visionary leadership, the Iota Alpha chapter has been saving a percentage of its annual budget for years in preparation for making a $50,000 centennial gift to SMU. The Fondren Library site was selected because of the sorority’s dedication to academics, a national reputation enhanced by the SMU chapter.
Mustangs give back to the libraries

The SMU community donated more than $5,000 to three Central University Libraries initiatives during Mustangs Give Back, a one-day giving challenge on March 24.

A special website featured profiles of 30 projects from all corners of campus and their funding goals. Alumni and all members of the University family were invited to donate to their favorite causes.

The popular “Paws and Take a Break” program was one of the first projects to surpass its goal. Each semester before finals, CUL partners with Paws Across Texas, A New Leash on Life, SMU Counseling and Psychiatric Services, and the Altshuler Learning Enhancement Center to bring therapy dogs to Fondren Library and Hamon Arts Library for stress-relief sessions with students.

Funds raised for another CUL project, the Libraries Transform Campaign, will supply banners, posters and postcards for the effort to increase public awareness of the value, impact and services provided by libraries and librarians. The campaign, a nationwide initiative of the American Library Association, emphasizes the transformative nature of today’s libraries and the critical role libraries play in the digital age.

In conjunction with the campaign, CUL has adopted the new slogan “Think Smart, Think SMU Libraries.”

Through Mustangs Give Back, seed money was secured to purchase and operate an office supply vending machine in Fondren Library. Rather than the typical chips and sodas, items such as notecards, highlighters and flash drives will be available for purchase. The goal is to have the vending machine installed in 2017.

“Over the years, we’ve taken note of how frequently the front desk gets asked for various supplies. Installing a vending machine will prove to be a great convenience to the students and staff,” says Paulette Mulry, CUL director of development.

“Our students are very fortunate to attend an institution with such loyal and generous donors who continue to support the students in such creative and effective ways,” Mulry adds.

Chaucer and a ‘hermeneutics of charity’

“Do you think that the ending of Chaucer’s Troilus and Criseyde is a satisfying one? Explain.”

When Bonnie Wheeler, associate professor of English and Director of Medieval Studies at SMU, posed that question and challenge to students in her “Chaucer’s Shorter Poems” course, Lee Downen ’16 (pictured below) answered affirmatively in the eloquent treatise “Reading Chaucer with Charity: A Hermeneutical Proposal.”

“The challenge, as I saw it, was to provide an answer using the logic of the text itself rather than my own personal preference. It wouldn’t work, according to what I call a ‘hermeneutics of charity,’ to judge the ending of the poem as satisfying or unsatisfying simply because I did or did not like it,” explains Downen.

“The ending is satisfying, I argue, not because I like it, although I do, but rather because it make sense within — and fulfills — the Dantean logic of the poem, which is the story of pagans in pre-Christian antiquity told by an arguably Christian author. Chaucer creates an expectation in readers and then satisfies it in an unexpected way.”

Downen, who graduated in May with bachelor’s degrees in English and accounting, received the 2016 Bobbi and Larrie Weil Undergraduate Research Award for his scholarly paper.

“Sound research skills are still fundamental for critical thinking and responsible citizenship in the internet world of immediate access to misinformation and unreliable sources,” says Larrie Weil. He and his wife, Bobbi, established the award to recognize outstanding scholarly research using resources available through SMU’s libraries.

While identifying sources for the paper, Downen split his time between the third floor of Fondren Library (literature) and the basement of Bridwell Library (theology).

“I went to Fondren a lot for Dr. Wheeler’s class because she required us to include discussion of a relevant scholarly source in our typed comments on assigned class readings,” he says.

“Although I found a lot of articles on JSTOR and Project MUSE, I found an equal amount of books via the Chaucer Bibliography Online. Once I found the book in the library that I was looking for, I would scan the relevant chapter to a PDF and email it to myself.”

Ultimately, the countless hours he spent on the assignment were worth it, he says.

“I learned how much of a labor of love research papers can be. They are laborious, in the best sense of the word,” he says. “When you are really interested in something, it makes it much easier to get through the laborious part — to read several hundred pages of scholarly material to write 12 pages and to spend 30-40 hours on one paper when you have assignments to complete for other classes.”

Similar research will continue to play a crucial role in his academic life as a Master of Divinity student at Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey.

“Afterward, I hope to begin Ph.D. studies. Libraries will have no small role in my life for at least the next eight years. Tolle lege,” he says, quoting the Latin phrase for ‘take up and read’ from St. Augustine’s Confessions.

Downen’s paper is available online through the SMU Digital Repository (http://digitalrepository.smu.edu).
Parallel lives, distinctive artistry

Nature inspired two pioneering Texas artists, but their creative interpretations could not have been more different as witnessed in “Process and Innovation: Carlotta Corpron and Janet Turner” at the Meadows Museum.

The exhibition, which ran February 14-August 21, featured holdings from the Jerry Bywaters Special Collections in Hamon Arts Library and other Dallas-area collections.

“It was a stroke of curatorial genius for the Meadows Museum’s Nicole Atzbach to pair works by these two artists and to coordinate their exhibition with that of works by Texas painter Marie Cronin elsewhere in the museum,” says Sam Ratcliffe ’74, Head of the Bywaters Special Collections. “The Bywaters’ holdings were shown to full advantage in this exhibition program that featured the disciplines of photography, printmaking and painting.”

Photographer Corpron (1901-1988) and painter and printmaker Turner (1914-1988) excelled as inspirational educators, urging students to explore the creative potential of their art beyond established boundaries.

Corpron’s abstract images made an enduring impact on future generations of photographers and the medium itself. Among her students was Beverly Wilgus, whose work also was on view in the exhibit. Wilgus and her husband, Jack, who enjoyed long careers as photographers and teachers before retiring, are renowned photography collectors. In December, DeGolyer Library announced a major donation of rare photographs and books from the Wilguses, the first in a series of donations to the library from their historically significant holdings.

Turner maintained a deference to nature in detailed, technically complex works that inspired countless young artists and promoted printmaking as a serious art form.

“Aside from the artistry and intricacy of the prints, the plates are where the ‘magic’ begins,” says Ellen Niewyk ’78, special collections curator, Bywaters Special Collections, who has worked for years to safely preserve the Turner collection. “Not only did Janet combine printmaking processes to create unique prints, but she also experimented with new processes.”

View more of Turner’s prints from the Bywaters Special Collections online in the “Texas Artists – Paintings, Sculptures, And Works on Paper” digital collection at http://digitalcollections.smu.edu/all/cul/tar/.

Music to study by on Spotify

Some students prefer a quiet and serene setting when they need to focus on studying. Others like some background music to help them zero in on work. Before spring finals, Central University Libraries staff crafted the first-ever “CUL Songs for Studying,” the perfect soundtrack for reading, writing and reviewing for tests.

James Williamson, digital production librarian at Fondren Library, who spearheaded the project, thought students might benefit from the playlist while they prepared for final exams.

“I asked CUL staff members to contribute a list of music they listen to when they need to focus. We came up with 79 songs encompassing classical, jazz, indie, folk, acoustic guitar and classic rock,” he says. “So if students like to chill to some cool indie rock, bob their heads to instrumental beats, or snap their fingers to some great jazz, there is something on the playlist for them.”

Williamson chose the music streaming site Spotify as the host platform because it offers a free tier. “That way, anyone could have access to our suggested songs on any device,” he says.

Contributors posted comments about their selections ranging from a simple “liked this” to “The XX [a band] got me through library school. A+ choice.” Williamson reports more than 38 people followed the playlist, and over 300 viewers saw the “CUL Songs for Studying” story posted on the Hamon Arts Library blog.

To hear the playlist, search under public playlists on Spotify for “CUL Songs for Studying (Spring 2016)” or under the username ncdsatsmu.
Tags and scrapbooks for the digital age

Three SMU graduate students used a scrapbook compiled by renowned philanthropist and hostess par excellence Nancy Hamon for “To Tag or Not To Tag: Digitizing Personal Scrapbooks and Photo Albums,” a research and digital publishing project.

Mrs. Hamon and her husband, Jake, were famous for staging elaborate theme parties, which she documented in scrapbooks filled with photos, invitations and other items. The Jake and Nancy Hamon Papers, which includes 22 of her party scrapbooks, are part of the Jerry Bywaters Special Collections in Hamon Arts Library.

The multidisciplinary student team – Julie Borger, M.A. candidate, and Danya Epstein, Ph.D. student, art history, Meadows School of the Arts; and Thomas Jacobi, Ph.D. student, English, Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences – focused on her 1961 “Silent Movies” party scrapbook. Early in the process, they realized the photos of oil tycoons, socialites, politicians, Hollywood actors and performers, all decked out in silent movie era garb, amounted to a sort of guide to the boldface names of early 1960s Dallas.

“Our aim, then, became to identify – or tag – these people and their costumes and to design a digital platform that would enable users to see who’s who in the album, browse through names, search for particular people, and even contribute to the identification process,” explains Jacobi. “Another goal was to supplement all this with secondary research – biographies, findings from SMU’s Hamon archive and clippings from The Dallas Morning News – in a clean, user-friendly way.”

They worked with Hybrid Publishing Group, specialists in digital publishing and engagement for cultural institutions and their audiences, to create an information-rich representation of their findings.

“Through our digital platform, HyperImage, we were able to link specific passages from a newspaper article reporting on the party with particular photos from the album in a colorful and user-friendly way,” Jacobi says.

“We were so delighted that one of the Nancy Hamon theme party scrapbook albums was selected to be part of their project,” - Jolene de Verges
Director, Hamon Arts Library

They presented their project at the 2016 RASC/a (Rhetorics of Art, Space and Culture) Graduate Student Conference on campus in April. SMU art history faculty members Lisa Pon, associate professor, and Beatriz Balanta, assistant professor, facilitated the conference.

“We were so delighted that one of the Nancy Hamon theme party scrapbook albums was selected to be part of their project,” says Jolene de Verges, Director, Hamon Arts Library. “The student presentations were really interesting, and we are grateful to Lisa and Beatriz for their ongoing interest in working with the Bywaters Special Collections in the Hamon Library and for introducing these items to students.”

A finding aid to the Jake and Nancy Hamon Papers created by Emily Grubbs ’08, archivist, Jerry Bywaters Special Collections, is available online at http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/smu/00259/smu-00259.html.

Above In a photo from the “Silent Movies” scrapbook (from left) Nancy Hamon, Louis Armstrong and Jake Hamon. Jerry Bywaters Special Collections, Hamon Arts Library.
Friends’ grants support wide-ranging user experience enhancements

The Friends of the SMU Libraries awarded $27,159 in grants in 2016 to preserve significant collections, purchase equipment and recognize staff excellence and innovation.

A total of $22,150 for the following one-time awards was approved by the Friends Grant Committee in the spring:

**$10,000**
**Fondren Library**  
The third grant in support of a $100,000 pledge for the renovation project.

**$3,500**
**Business Library**  
Purchase of digital signage.

**$3,000**
**SMU Archives**  
Continuing the Daily Campus student newspaper digitization project.

**$3,000**
**Jerry Bywaters Special Collections, Hamon Arts Library**  
Conservation of 49 works of art on paper by a variety of Texas artists.

**$2,650**
**Norwick Center for Digital Services (nCDS)**  
Purchase of a concave shelf truck for large format items.

The following grants for yearly distribution also were approved:

**$3,000**
**Central University Libraries**  
Assist in funding the production of the CUL annual report.

**$1,000**
**Library School Scholarship Award**  
This year’s scholarship recipient is Natasha Siu, library specialist, CUL.

**$500**
**SMU Libraries**  
Support for the Effective Use of Information Technology Staff Award.

**$500**
**SMU Libraries**  
Support for the Continuing Excellence Staff Award.

Honoring years of service to the University community

Dean Gillian M. McCombs (center) presented certificates to Central University Libraries staff members in recognition of their service to the SMU community. Among those honored at the program in March were (from left) Ada Negraru, three years; Stacey Beach, Carolyn Keenon and Heather Barrett, 10 years; Terre Heydari, 15 years; Ellen Niewyk, 25 years; Cindy Ruppi, 15 years; Beverly Mitchell, 10 years; Samantha Cavanaugh, five years; and Zoltán Szentkirályi, three years.
### Selected Statistics for CUL 2015-2016

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<td>Graduate and Professional</td>
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#### COLLECTIONS

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<td>Photographs</td>
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<td>DVDs &amp; CDs</td>
<td>40,443</td>
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<td>Digital Collection Items</td>
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#### PRINT HOLDINGS IN VOLUMES, BY LIBRARY

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<td>DeGolyer Library</td>
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<td>Fondren Library</td>
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<td>Hamon Arts Library</td>
<td>172,722</td>
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#### USAGE OF LIBRARIES & RESOURCES

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<td>Information Literacy Curriculum – Instruction Sessions</td>
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<td>Discover SMU library holdings searches</td>
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<td>Digital Collection visits (CDM)</td>
<td>83,341</td>
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<td>Digital Collection page views (CDM)</td>
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#### PERSONNEL (FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT)

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<td>Support positions</td>
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**TOTAL LIBRARY EXPENDITURES**

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<td><strong>Automation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$10,365,091</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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a. Starting with 2014-2015 the count of e-books is CUL’s e-books count, not including all SMU e-books.
b. 2015-2016 gate counts were substantially reduced due to the renovation of Fondren Library. 2014-2015 gate counts were somewhat reduced due to the construction of the new Simmons building to the east of Fondren Library, the Hamon Arts Library renovation, and the closing of the ISEM Reading Room.
c. 2014-2015 count of instruction sessions excludes 19 DeGolyer instruction sessions for comparison to 2015-2016 count of instruction sessions. DeGolyer was closed in 2015-2016 due to the Fondren Library renovation and no instruction was conducted.
d. 2015-2016 number of study room reservations increased due to a new booking tool that allows only 30 or 60 minute reservations at a time rather than up to 3 hours at a time like the previous booking tool.
e. 2015-2016 total study room hours reserved were substantially reduced due to the Fondren Library renovation.
f. Renovation expenditures are not included in total library expenditures. Renovation expenditures in 2014-2015 were $1,223,736 and renovation expenditures in 2015-2016 were $9,648,804.
g. Prior to 2014-2015, the Annual Report combined Employee Benefits expenditures into the category “Other.”
One of the most anticipated spaces opening in the next phase of the Fondren Library renovation is the new Caren H. Prothro Learning Commons, made possible by a gift from the Hoblitzelle Foundation. Concierge service support for information and research, two new computer labs and many additional features have been designed to better serve students and faculty today and in the years ahead.

It is fitting that this new platform for innovative academic endeavors is named for Caren H. Prothro, vice chair of the SMU Libraries Executive Board. As a current member and past chair of the SMU Board of Trustees and a co-chair of SMU’s Second Century Campaign, Prothro was instrumental in rallying efforts to secure unprecedented funding for the University, creating the foundation for a new era of achievement in all areas, including its libraries.

“SMU’s historic campaign had as its principle goals to impact student quality, faculty excellence and the campus experience. The newly renovated Fondren Library addresses each of these important goals and strengthens the academic quality of the University,” she says.

Prothro continues her extended family’s legacy of support and leadership in higher education that dates to SMU’s beginning. She received a bachelor of arts degree from Mills College and first became a member of the University community by marriage to the late C. Vincent (Vin) Prothro ’68. Her grandparents, Joe J. and Lois Perkins, were founding contributors to the University in 1913 and later endowed the theology school, which was named in their honor in 1945.

Her initial connection with SMU’s libraries was through her mother-in-law, Elizabeth Perkins Prothro ’39, a founding member of the Friends of the SMU Libraries/Colophon and a renowned collector of rare Bibles, which are now housed in Bridwell Library at the Perkins School of Theology. In 1977, with her husband, Charles, and mother, Lois Perkins, Elizabeth created the Prothro General Book Fund Endowment to purchase countless books and other resources for SMU libraries.

In the ensuing years, the libraries may have changed, but their role as the academic heart of the University has not, she notes.

“Great universities must have great libraries to attract the finest faculty and high-achieving students. As SMU strives to be a leading university nationally and internationally, we must continue to invest in our libraries.”

“Caren H. Prothro named a table in the restored Fondren Foundation Centennial Reading Room in honor of her son-in-law, Cullum Clark, a Ph.D. student in economics at SMU.”
The reading room gifts that keep on giving

Behind the plaques on each named chair and table in the renovated Fondren Foundation Centennial Reading is a story. While each family or individual has a personal reason for naming a piece of handcrafted Thomas Moser furniture to complete the gracious space, there is a common denominator in their narratives: a shared commitment to sustaining the heart of the University for future generations of students and faculty. Here are a few of the donors who enjoyed the opportunity to see their gifts at the opening celebration on April 15.

1. David L. Whisenant ’71 and Paula Wisenbaker Whisenant ’71 continued their ongoing support of SMU students through the gift of a large table.

2. Kelly Allen Welsh ’78 and Kevin D. Welsh, who served as co-chairs of the Campaign Steering Committee for Los Angeles during SMU’s history-making Second Century Campaign, donated two chairs to the renovated reading room.

3. All in the family: Lissie Grayson Donosky ’81 (left) and D. Stephen Donosky ’90, and Sally Grayson Cullum ’79 and G. Mark Cullum ’69 (standing) built on their longtime support of SMU’s libraries with the gift of a table.

4. The plaque on the chair donated by Dianne Smith West ’66 and Robert H. West ’64 commemorates their first date in Fondren Library in 1963.

5. A member of the Class of 1983, Samuel J. Chantilis, M.D., supported the reading room and honored his sister, Stephanie Chantilis Bray ’85.

6. Mary Barksdale Bradford ’63 (left) and Ronald F. Bradford (standing) with Antoinette (Toni) Barksdale Terry ’54 and Marshall Terry ’53, ’54 gather around the chair that Mary and Toni donated in memory of their sister, Dorothy Dell Barksdale Buffington.

7. Julie Callan Harrison ’70, ’72, and Robert D. Harrison ’70, ’73 donated a large table that helps create a comfortable setting that is conducive to study.
CUL Achievements


Sylvia George-Williams, science and engineering librarian, was invited to serve on the American Society for Engineering Education – Engineering Libraries Division (ASEE- ELD) Conference Program Planning Committee. As a member of the organization’s publications committee, George-Williams served as a paper reviewer for the 2016 ASEE Conference in New Orleans. At the conference, she presented the paper “If You Build It, Will They Come?: Building a Makerspace at the University of Texas @ Arlington Libraries” and served as the coordinator/moderator for the ELD welcome and “lightning talk” session. She co-chaired the 2015 Texas Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Librarians Conference.

Megan Heuer, communication arts librarian, was appointed to the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Instruction Section Communication Committee and Communication Studies Committee. Heuer’s chapter proposal was accepted for the upcoming ACRL book Disciplinary Applications of Information Literacy Threshold Concepts.

Russell Martin, Assistant Dean for Collections, and Director, DeGolyer Library, judged entries for the Jesse Jones Fiction Award presented by the Texas Institute of Letters. Martin edited and published The State Fair of Texas: Photographs by Lynn Lennon for the Book Club of Texas.

Gillian M. McCombs, Dean and Director, CUL, with Anita P. Moran, wrote “The Die is not Yet Cast: The Value of Keeping an Open Mind and Being Agile Throughout all Phases of the Renovation Planning Cycle,” a chapter in Space and Collections Earning their Keep: Transformation, Technologies and Re-tooling. IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) Publication 175, Berlin, Germ.: DeGruyter, 2016.

Beverly Mitchell, Assistant Director, Hamon Arts Library, and art and dance librarian, represented the Hamon Arts Library blog team during a poster presentation about the planning and development of the blog at the ARLIS/NA+VRA (Art Libraries Society of North America and Visual Resources Association) Joint Conference in Seattle, March 8-12, 2016. Mitchell was appointed to the international relations committee for ARLIS/NA.


Sam Ratcliffe, Head of the Jerry Bywaters Special Collections, Hamon Arts Library, was installed as a trustee of the Dallas Historical Society and presented “Jerry Bywaters and the Centennial Connection” as part of its Brown Bag Lecture Series. He testified before the Dallas Landmark Commission concerning landmark status designation for the Lakewood Theater, which contains historically significant murals by Perry Nichols, a Dallas artist represented in the Bywaters Special Collections. Ratcliffe shared his expertise on another important Texas artist in “The Legacy of Octavio Morán,” a chapter in The Legacy of Octavio Morán, DeGruyter, 2016. Ratcliffe served on the Ron Tyler Book Award Committee of the Texas State Historical Association.

Natasha Siu, library specialist, Technology Services e-resources and acquisitions, was awarded the John Riddick Student Grant to attend the North American Serials Interest Group (NASIG) 2016 Annual Conference.
Jeremy Spracklen, preservationist, G. William Jones Film Collection, Hamon Arts Library, presented “Cinema I & II: A History of Movies in Dallas as Seen Through NorthPark’s Iconic Theater” at the Dallas VideoFest.

Zoltán Szentkirályi, Director of Assessment, presented “Correlating Library Instruction with Student Success in the GWLA Student Learning Research Project” at the Cross Timbers Library Collaborative Conference in Commerce. Szentkirályi co-authored the paper “Proficiencies for Assessment Librarians and Coordinators: Defining a Profession,” which was accepted for presentation at the 2016 Library Assessment Conference in Washington, D.C. In “Metrics With Meaning: How We Can Effect Change to Library Assessment Metrics Used by Non-Library Organizations,” he co-presented the outcome of a collaboration with Peterson’s publishing company to update its library survey questions at the 2015 Southeastern Library Assessment Conference in Atlanta. The new survey questions appear in the recently released Peterson’s Annual Survey of Undergraduate Institutions 2015-16.

James Williamson, digital production librarian, nCDS, served on the program committee and presented the workshop “Animating Digital Libraries” at the 2016 Texas Conference on Digital Libraries in Austin, May 24-26, 2016. For the Society of Southwest Archivists, he served on the ad-hoc committee on state partnerships and as chair of the membership committee. He co-presented “Get With, Or at Least, on the Program” at the organization’s annual meeting in Oklahoma City, May 18-21, 2016. Williamson organized and moderated the panel “Game On: Sports Archives and Collections in Texas” for the Texas State Historical Association 2016 annual meeting on March 5. He co-authored “Marketing Finding Aids on Social Media: What Worked and What Didn’t Work,” which was published in The American Archivist, Vol. 78 Issue 2.

Honoring SMU’s centennial historian

The newly restored Fondren Foundation Centennial Reading Room served as the setting for a dazzling celebration of great writing and thought-provoking conversation at the 16th annual Tables of Content on April 30.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the seventh annual Literati Award to Darwin Payne, SMU centennial historian and professor emeritus of communications. Payne called the honor bestowed by his alma mater “very meaningful,” noting that the University has been “part of most of my adult life.”

In addition to teaching journalism at SMU for 30 years, Payne’s career has included working as a newspaper and television reporter, publishing a weekly suburban newspaper, and writing several books on Dallas history and biographies of leading Dallas citizens. Among his recent work are two SMU histories: One Hundred Years of the Hilltop (2016) and In Honor of the Mustangs: A Centennial History of SMU Athletics (2011).

Toni Barksdale Terry ’54 and Marshall Terry ’53, ’54 served as co-chairs of the event presented by Friends of the SMU Libraries. “Mr. SMU,” as Professor Emeritus Marsh Terry is affectionately known on campus, received the 2012 Literati Award.

Above right: SMU President R. Gerald Turner (left) and Gillian M. McCombs, Dean and Director, Central University Libraries, presented the 2016 Literati Award to Darwin Payne.

Right: Jennifer “JJ” Jones, SMU Executive Director of Student Life, and Carlton Adams, 2015-2016 SMU Student Body President, enjoyed the pre-dinner festivities. Adams joined his grandmother, Lindalyn Adams ’52, in hosting a table discussion on “SMU: Then and Now.”
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The Canterbury Tales, one of seven bas-relief sculptures by Harry Lee Gibson depicting scenes from great works of literature, which adorns the restored Fondren Foundation Centennial Reading Room.