



SMU LIBRARIES

impact

IMPACT REPORT 2025-2026

SMU®

WHERE DISCOVERY

begins

Universities are often recognized for what they discover. Yet every discovery begins long before a breakthrough is published or a classroom conversation unfolds. It starts with knowledge preserved, questions asked, partnerships formed and people committed to creating the conditions where learning can thrive.

That work is often quiet. It happens in collections that preserve a record of human experiences, in spaces designed to support curiosity, in technologies that expand what research can accomplish and in collaborations that bring together expertise from across disciplines. Over time, these efforts build something larger than any single project or initiative. They make an impact.

This year, that impact can be seen across SMU Libraries. Bridwell Library continues to connect with new audiences through scholarship, publishing and public engagement. Librarians are working alongside faculty and students to explore how artificial intelligence can strengthen research while reinforcing the importance of information integrity and critical thinking. New spaces are supporting new ways of learning, while new leadership and evolving partnerships are expanding opportunities for discovery across the Hilltop.

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Over time, these efforts build something larger than any single project or initiative. They make an impact.

These stories are different in their focus, but they share a common purpose. Each reflects an organization that is continually adapting to meet new questions while remaining grounded in the enduring work of preserving knowledge, fostering inquiry and connecting patrons with new ideas.

The pages that follow highlight the outcomes of that work throughout 2025-2026. Together, they illustrate a simple truth: libraries do more than provide access to knowledge. They help transform knowledge into understanding, collaboration and discovery, ensuring that what we preserve today becomes the foundation for what is possible tomorrow.

HOLLY E. JEFFCOAT

Dean of SMU Libraries



REVITALIZING STUDENT SPACES IN *Fondren Library*

Students returning to Fondren Library this fall found more than just their favorite study spots — they discovered newly updated spaces designed to better support the many ways they learn and work.

In the Prothro Learning Commons, the former layout has been reimagined with variety and flexibility. New armchairs and couches offer a more relaxed, home-like atmosphere, paired with laptop-friendly tables and high-top standing options for students who prefer to work upright. The redesign also increases seating capacity and improves access to power throughout the space.

“I walk through the Learning Commons on the way to my office, and it has been fun and gratifying to see so many students taking advantage of the transformed space,” says Megan Heuer, director of educational initiatives. “There are no single coveted spots — everything is being used.”

Upstairs on the fourth floor, a previously small study room has been expanded by removing a wall and adding individual study carrels. The space now accommodates up to 12 students in a quiet, focused environment for distraction-free study. “We kept student needs in mind in the design and hope the spaces not only are comfortable and welcoming, but also fit their needs,” says Elizabeth Killingsworth, associate dean of academic initiatives and director of Fondren Library.

“This project has been a cooperative effort focused on updating furniture to create a more functional and adaptable space that meets the evolving needs of our students,” says Sarah Jenkins, director of library digital experience. Student feedback, including input from the Master’s in Innovation and Design program, along with guidance from an architect, helped inform the redesign of the spaces. The project was also supported by generous SMU Libraries donors, and was warmly received by SMU students.

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The Prothro Learning Commons renovations are an exciting change and bring about a sense of refreshing newness to the library.

-SMU student Jenna McCorvy.

Fondren's walls were also given a new look in the past year. An ongoing exhibition, “The Writers: Portraits by Laura Wilson,” adds inspiration throughout the library. The portraits highlight prominent writers and the environments that shape their creative work. Spanning the first and third floors, the exhibition offers a rare look into the private spaces, objects, and routines of influential writers through Wilson's intimate photography.

The upgrades are far from finished. Next fall will bring the opening of the Crain Commons, a renovated area in Fondren Library enabled by a generous donation from Nate Crain '92, Libraries Executive Board member, and the second floor “link” area will be refreshed for the coming year. Fondren spaces will continue to evolve as part of a bold, long-term vision for the library's future as it approaches its centennial in 2040. Informed by ongoing planning and input from library stakeholders and a space planning team, these thoughtful improvements will ensure Fondren remains a vibrant hub for teaching, learning, research and collaboration. By investing in spaces that adapt to the changing needs of the University community, SMU Libraries will position Fondren to serve and inspire Mustangs for the next 100 years.



A YEAR OF *Mustang leadership*

Since arriving on the Hilltop, President Jay C. Hartzell and Executive Vice President and Provost Rachel Davis Mersey have emphasized connection and collaboration across the University. SMU Libraries has supported that work as a partner in teaching and learning, research excellence, student success and by fostering a vibrant intellectual community across campus.

SMU's presidential inauguration – its first in decades – marked an important moment for the University and brought the campus community together through a series of celebrations. SMU Libraries joined the festivities with open houses, programs and displays across the University Archives, Bridwell Library and the G. William Jones Film and Video Collection, as well as a visiting exhibition in Hamon Arts Library's Hawn Gallery. The programs featured materials from the Libraries' collections and highlighted the people, places and moments that have shaped SMU.

Throughout the year, President Hartzell and Provost Mersey continued to engage with the Libraries community, meeting with supporters and partners committed to supporting SMU and its Libraries. Through conversations with the Libraries Executive Board and Friends of SMU Libraries Board, they connected with those who help sustain the Libraries' work and strengthen its impact across campus.

As SMU Libraries approaches significant milestones of its own, it remains an active partner in the University's vision for the future, preserving knowledge, supporting discovery and advancing innovation for the next generation of Mustangs.



AI PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

For SMU Libraries' AI, Research & Instruction Team, the past year can be defined in one word: momentum. Since the team's launch in 2024, that momentum has only grown through expanding and deepening collaborations with SMU faculty, as librarians and instructors have partnered again to strengthen AI literacy, responsible AI use and information integrity while shaping innovative approaches to how generative AI is used in teaching, research and scholarship.

This year's success began with the August Faculty Wine Reception in Fondren Library, hosted in partnership with the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost. Faculty and SMU Libraries staff gathered with new SMU leadership in attendance to celebrate faculty promotions and reflect on a year of strong collaboration.

Spearheading many of these faculty collaborations are Megan Heuer and Carrie Johnston, co-chairs of the AI, Research & Instruction team. At the heart of their work is the belief that research – and assignments such as research papers – should remain central to student learning. “Despite the challenges, there are good reasons we assign research papers,” says Megan. “We want our students to be able to read and use information well to construct their own understanding.”

Over the past year, the team has been actively strengthening campus engagement around AI through a mix of faculty cohorts, an AI literacy campaign, staff workshops for SMU Libraries and applied research. They also supported hands-on exploration of generative AI through a campus-wide pilot of Consensus, maintained a presence at the OIT Technology Showcase and the AI Learning Lab, where faculty explored practical applications for teaching and research, and presented at Amigos in a session titled “Rapid Response to AI: Everything Counts.”

Faculty engagement grew through sustained cohort models, including the AI for Research Summer Cohort, which explored AI tools with 13 faculty participants across all colleges, 4 of whom continued into a peer-to-peer cohort within their departments. A second cohort – the AI and Research Assignments Cohort – successfully completed its first iteration, supporting faculty as they adjusted their courses and research assignments in response to AI. The year concluded with a celebration at AI Uncorked in May, where faculty from the Spring 2026 AI and Research Assignments Faculty Cohort shared their experiences.

Looking ahead, the coming year is expected to bring further innovation, including a new credit-bearing course taught in the fall by a team of librarians and led by Megan, as well as the creation of a new AI & digital research librarian position to further support this work. Together, these developments position SMU Libraries for continued growth as a key SMU partner in a future shaped by AI.

1,255

CONSULTATIONS

3,913

reference transactions

STUDENTS REACHED THROUGH

11,297

course
sessions

4,388

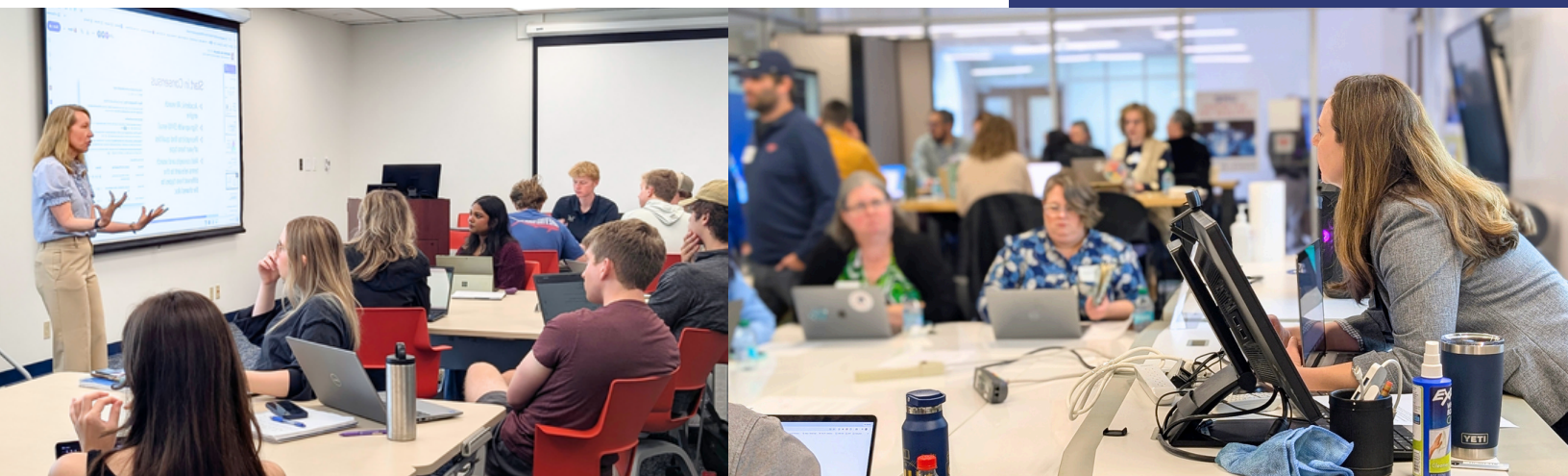
instructional
programs

96%

Satisfaction rate
across teaching

255

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS



Reimagined

RESEARCH IN THE CLASSROOM

Faculty in the AI and Research Assignments Cohort redesigned research projects for the age of artificial intelligence, fostering students' critical thinking, information literacy, and disciplinary research skills in collaboration with SMU Libraries.



Charles Wuest – Introduction to Poetry: Life Between the Lines

Students complete a research project emphasizing the role of speech in writing, including reading poems aloud, guided research conversations, conferences, and traditional reading, note-taking and drafting. The research question asks: How does an assigned poem (or small group of poems) elucidate an issue important to college students today? Final drafts reflect how ideas developed through this process.

Rachel Ball-Phillips – On the Edges of Empire: India and Mexico/American Southwest

Students complete a research project using nineteenth- and early twentieth-century photographs to explore how empire is experienced from peripheral perspectives. AI supports early research and source gathering, followed by project pitches and annotated bibliographies. Students then create zines with Pegasus Creative Reuse, blending archival research, AI-assisted discovery and design.

Emily Nelms Chastain – United Methodist History

Archival interpretation dossiers guide students through primary sources such as sermons, General Conference debates, church records, and denominational legislation to construct interpretive arguments. AI supports analysis by helping students locate context, sharpen questions, and test interpretive claims before developing a historical argument.

Justin Childress – The Context and Impact of Design

Students investigate Dallas-based design topics through archival research, site visits, field documentation, and interviews, using AI in bounded ways that emphasize questioning blind spots and documenting what it gets wrong as much as what it gets right. Each student develops a public-facing companion output making research, sources, and uncertainties visible.

Meghan Johnson – Writing and Reasoning

The final research project becomes an investigation of misinformation and how it circulates in today's information ecosystem. Students trace a false claim or cult using iterative checkpoints, Litmaps AI tools, Chatbot peer review, and reflection, with AI integrated to test its strengths and limits in real time.

Constantin Icleanu – Immigrant Representations in Contemporary Spanish Cinema

Students study how immigrants are represented in Spanish film, incorporating AI training and required office hours. After developing their own arguments, they use generative AI and retrieval-augmented tools to locate peer-reviewed research, identify counterarguments, and evaluate materials while maintaining independent critical thinking.

Zhihao Wu – Biology

Students treat generative AI as a research partner to be questioned and sometimes challenged. Using tools such as Consensus, they evaluate literature, design prompts, and verify AI-generated claims against biological research, treating outputs as hypotheses to be tested.

Brooke Ryan – Applied Physiology and Sports Management Senior Project

Students complete a 20-page capstone literature review with a proposed study design, using AI to streamline and organize parts of the research process while maintaining responsibility for interpreting evidence and building arguments.

WHEN ARCHIVES MEET AI



What if hidden treasures in special collections could become the starting point for the next groundbreaking research project? As the new associate dean of research and digital strategy, Carrie Johnston will work to make that vision a reality by bringing together the Norwick Center for Digital Solutions (nCDS) and the Research and Scholarly Initiatives (RSI) team. The integration will help faculty and students discover, use and digitally curate unique collections while receiving support throughout every stage of the research process.

RSI has supported faculty and students throughout the research process, from developing project ideas to managing, visualizing and preserving research data. By combining that expertise with nCDS's work digitizing special collections, the new unit will help researchers discover unique materials and create new opportunities for scholarship, collaborating with students, faculty and staff on research data management, AI and machine learning, open access publishing, copyright, repositories and digital scholarship. As partners in the research enterprise, the team activates special collections and empowers researchers to move from creative vision to innovative reality.

The unit is expanding with three key roles. Rafia Mirza has transitioned into the new role of scholarly communication librarian, where she will lead support for the SMU Scholar institutional repository and SMU Dataverse, helping faculty increase the visibility, accessibility and long-term preservation of their research. Two new positions will expand support for digital scholarship: one helping researchers leverage AI workflows and digital collections, while another will integrate special collections into digital humanities, computational research, digital exhibits, and oral history projects, fostering innovative uses of historical materials with emerging technologies in the Rees-Jones Library of the American West.

Carrie's own connection to her team's vision is rooted in her time as an SMU English graduate student, when she curated the Fred Harvey Company Materials digital collection from rare materials in DeGolyer Library, drawing on her dissertation research on women writers in the early 20th-century American Southwest. That experience shaped her belief in the power of connecting archival discovery with digital access and continues to guide her leadership approach today, especially with a new library coming soon.

"I'm especially excited to work with my team to digitize the Rees-Jones Collection and to build a research community in the lab that will be housed in the Rees-Jones Library of the American West," she says. As she leads this team which will bridge SMU researchers to the Libraries, she also looks forward to strengthening connections across campus. "Everyone is welcome to use the Libraries," she notes – a mantra her team embraces.

Expanding research visibility at SMU

Making research more accessible – and more affordable – was a key achievement this year. Through transformative read-and-publish agreements, the Libraries enabled SMU researchers to publish their work as open access while saving more than \$297,000 in article processing charges. These agreements help faculty share their discoveries with readers around the world without the financial barriers that often accompany open-access publishing.

The Libraries also continued to support research through Open Access and Data Grant programs, providing funding for publishing and specialized datasets that advance scholarship.

In her new role as scholarly communication librarian, Rafia now oversees the review and approval of both Open Access and Data Grant applications, further expanding the Libraries' support for impactful, accessible research.



The Rees-Jones Library **OF THE AMERICAN WEST**

Construction of the Rees-Jones Library of the American West is progressing steadily, with the building taking shape and key milestones coming into view. From the earliest stages of construction to the work underway today, the library is moving closer to completion and to becoming a new destination for the research, learning and exploration of the American West. Each month brings SMU Libraries closer to expanding access to the Rees-Jones Collection and creating a lasting impact on the Hilltop.



Exploring Film Beyond the Classroom



A student-curated film series at the Dallas Angelika Film Center celebrated the work of acclaimed filmmaker Wong Kar-wai, supported by the Friends of SMU Libraries and presented in partnership with the G. William Jones Film and Video Collection. The series brought the SMU community together to experience his films and engage in conversations exploring his distinctive style, storytelling and lasting influence on international cinema.

CURATING COMMUNITY

Archives preserve history, but they also create opportunities for people to connect with it. Last summer, curators from across SMU Libraries demonstrated that role by opening their collections to the community through Preservation Dallas's Summer Sizzler local archives event at Hamon Arts Library, with the goal of "demystifying archives" for the community.

The after-hours program invited visitors behind the scenes to discover how archivists and curators preserve and interpret the stories that have shaped Dallas. Presentations, collection displays and tours featured materials from the G. William Jones Film and Video Collection, Bywaters Special Collections and DeGolyer Library, revealing the many ways archives document the city's artistic, architectural and cultural heritage.

Visitors explored everything from Potter Iron Studios design drawings and Octavio Medellín's papers to historic WFAA and KERA news footage, early films of Fair Park and Dallas, and the Virginia McAlester papers, which include Preservation Dallas archives chronicling decades of local preservation efforts. Together, these collections showed how seemingly different archives intersect to tell a richer, more complete story of Dallas.

The conversations extended beyond the library. In September, archivists and curators from the participating collections reunited for a Preservation Dallas panel discussion, continuing to engage the public in conversations about the value of preserving and sharing the region's history.

"Connecting with members of the community is central to our work, as it empowers them with the knowledge and tools needed to engage directly with archival materials," says University Archivist Ben Jenkins. "Archives play a vital role in illuminating history, preserving cultural memory, and opening pathways for research, interpretation and discovery."

Duda Family Business Library Adjunct Retreat

The Duda Family Business Library recognized a need to bring Cox's adjunct faculty members together to connect, get acquainted, and build a stronger sense of community. That vision resulted in the inaugural adjunct faculty retreat hosted by the library this year, creating space for meaningful connection and collaboration. The retreat featured remarks from Cox's Dean and Tolleson Chair in Business Leadership Todd Milbourn, and provided an opportunity for faculty to network, share ideas and strengthen relationships that extend beyond the classroom.

> Thank you for a fantastic day! I so appreciate you taking the time to think of us adjuncts and make sure we understood our resources, especially those offered by you. It was a lot of fun to be on campus, network with other adjuncts and discuss topics we are all facing (hello AI!).

Jill Melton,
Management & Organizations Professor

*What an incredible day! ✨
Thank you to the brilliant
Duda Family Business
Library team for hosting the
Cox Adjunct Faculty Retreat.*

Shawn Storer,
Management & Organizations Professor

The team at the Duda Family Business Library at SMU Cox are the experts that keep our faculty and students informed. Thank you for getting us all ready to achieve great things in 2025-26 and beyond! >

Todd Milbourn,
Dean of Cox School of Business



IDEAS IN PRINT, IMPACT IN PRACTICE

It's been a lively and highly visible year at Bridwell Library, where rare books, visiting scholars, and public programming have come together in a steady rhythm of engagement across the Hilltop and beyond. From national recognition to new scholarly publications, the library has continued to strengthen its reputation as a destination for rare book research, curatorial exchange, and historical inquiry. Throughout the year, its collections have served as a catalyst for conversations about history, craftsmanship, and the enduring relevance of the written word.

That momentum is evident in the work of Bridwell Press, which continues to broaden its reach as it enters its fifth year of publishing in 2026. This year marked several milestones, including the publication of "Spotted Ponies: The Collected Zines," the press's first art book, and the launch of its first academic journal, *Journal of Praise & Worship*, at Oxford University. These achievements underscore the press's increasingly interdisciplinary vision, bringing together theology, the arts, and innovative scholarship while expanding Bridwell's influence well beyond its physical collections.

As Bridwell looks ahead, this spirit of innovation and scholarship continues to shape its future. All of this activity builds toward the celebration of Bridwell's 75th anniversary. While the milestone was marked earlier this year, commemorative programming will continue through the coming year, connecting the library's founding mission with its evolving role as a center for scholarship, preservation, publishing, and public engagement. As Bridwell enters its 75th year, its impact is reflected not only in the strength of its collections but also in its growing contributions to research, publishing, and cultural life – rooted on the Hilltop but reaching to communities and ideas around the world.



From student to scholar



Four years have passed since I first arrived on campus at SMU, filled with an unbridled desire to contribute and achieve. It did not take long to settle in and embark on a five year journey as a Ph.D. Moody Fellow in Dedman College. Leaving behind LSU, where I had just completed my undergraduate degree in chemistry, I wondered how well the library on campus would meet my needs. What I soon discovered was not only did Fondren Library exceed expectations, but it was just one of many formidable libraries found throughout campus, beautifully nestled near or around the Boulevard. Now in my fifth year, the SMU Libraries function as a harmonious, intersecting network of relevant research destinations for me to explore.

For me, the libraries on campus operate not as separate, discipline-based hubs of knowledge, but as a connected network where I research topics or attend events as diverse and engaging as the campus itself. My scientific research has expanded to depend upon the use of the interlibrary loaning system in obtaining relevant, state-of-the-art research papers, texts and reviews from across my field, critical for enriching my experimental processes and investigations. Furthermore, the SMU Libraries assist me on a deeper level as a knowledge-gathering tool. It has been inspiring to peruse the stacks in Fondren as part of a final chemistry exam assignment, experience first-hand historical artifacts at the Codex Sassoon exhibit in Bridwell Library and explore rows of periodicals and articles chronicling the impact of the arts across our nation in Hamon Arts Library.

From my earliest days at SMU, my goal was to emerge as an adept researcher and learner, having responsibly applied all of God's blessings, ready to engage in a world scientifically that would also require of me independent reasoning and creative thought. On my path to becoming that individual, the libraries play an integral part.

IMOGEN HOFFMAN '27

Hometown: New Orleans, LA

Program: Dedman Ph.D. in Chemistry

Interests: Visual Art, Interior Design, Travel



PARTNERSHIPS WITH *Purpose*

Across SMU Libraries, partnerships are driving innovative projects that help librarians work more efficiently while expanding support for students, faculty and researchers. Increasingly, some of these efforts are exploring how AI can be thoughtfully integrated into library workflows to streamline processes, support decision-making, and enhance services across the academic community.

For Synae Yoon, now SMU Libraries' metadata workflow & catalog librarian, AI is less a tool of automation than one of exploration. "I see AI as a tool that helps us work more effectively, not something that replaces human expertise. Just as calculators did not replace mathematicians, AI can help us focus more on the work that matters most," she says. "As a composer, I've always enjoyed creating and experimenting, so I find it exciting to use AI to develop new workflows and explore new possibilities. One of the most rewarding parts of this journey has been collaborating with colleagues and gaining a broader understanding of library work."

That collaborative spirit shows up in her projects. In one, Synae developed a custom "fixed-prompt" cataloging assistant tailored to different library collections, then worked with Tue Vu in OIT to test it in SMU's local retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) environment. In another, with Dr. Hyae-jin Hwang, she developed a tool that translates piano pieces into detailed teaching insights, helping bridge music performance and pedagogy in ways that were previously left to individual experience. And in a third, she partnered with Travis Rogers at SMU Libraries to fix a long-standing metadata gap in large collections, achieving near-perfect accuracy across tens of thousands of recordings.

If Synae's work shows what AI can do in expert hands, another library project shows what happens when mentorship enters the equation. Through the Library Education and Development program, Natasha Siu and Travis Rogers built a system inspired by a former Libraries student employee that can evaluate library holdings at scale: work that once took thousands of staff hours, now completed in just one hour.

Natasha described the experience as both practical and personal: "This was my first time participating in the mentorship program and serving as a mentor to Travis has been great! He has interest in learning all the processes within technical services, but when I learned of his work using Python with MARC records, I had some project ideas where he could utilize his skills and streamline some department workflows. With the use of AI for programming, this new system calls on the OCLC MetaData API to pull holdings information for items in our collection. This greatly helps the collections team make informed deselection decisions, which ultimately creates space for new materials."

For Travis, the experience was just as transformative: "I really enjoyed working with my mentor, Natasha, this past year and have expanded my technical skills by using AI to develop software that automates time-consuming tasks. The tools we are using now show great promise for the future."

3,501
ITEMS COMPRISING OF
28,294
FILES WERE DIGITIZED



1,326
images



151
video games



428
maps



66
drawings

SMU LIBRARIES STAFF RECOGNITION HIGHLIGHTS



Cindy Ruppi, executive assistant to Dean Jeffcoat, and Terre Heydari, operations manager at DeGolyer Library, were honored at the 2025 Staff Celebration and Convocation for 25 years of service to SMU and SMU Libraries. Their dedication and contributions have made a lasting impact on the SMU community and the work of SMU Libraries.



SMU's Women in Law recognized Donna Wolff as this year's Distinguished Faculty Member, honoring her outstanding legal career and commitment to supporting women in the Dallas legal community.

She received the award at the annual Women in Law Spring Brunch on April 17.



In her first year as Strategy and Operations Analyst, Carly Hughes transformed how SMU Libraries uses data by creating interactive dashboards that give leadership real-time insights into finances, staffing, marketing and instructional impact.

These tools have streamlined reporting, strengthened strategic planning, and helped the Libraries better understand emerging trends – including how AI is reshaping teaching and learning – to make more informed decisions for the future.



Monique Christian-Long, director of organizational effectiveness, earned her Doctor of Education (EdD) in Higher Education, graduating in May and receiving her cohort's Outstanding Student Award in recognition of her academic excellence and leadership.

In her role, Monique leads a team that streamlines workflows and provides data-driven insights to help SMU Libraries make informed decisions and continue delivering exceptional service to the SMU community.

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PRESENTATIONS AND POSTER SESSIONS

- Adams, Shannon, Katie DeVet, Deirdre Buckley, Rachel Haisley, and Meghan Connolly (2026). Leganto Support Group: Leveraging Web Based Tools for Course Materials. Co-facilitated session at the Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA) Joint Meeting.
- Adams, Shannon, and Katie DeVet (2026). Seamless Sharing: Harnessing System Capabilities for Better Service. Co-facilitated session at the Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA) Joint Meeting.
- Alleman, Kate (2026). LARPING in the Library: Live Action Research Protocol. Panel presentation at the Art Libraries Society of North America conference.
- Anderson, Julia, Ramón García, Rebecca Graff, Megan Heuer, and Melissa Johnson (2025). Rapid response to AI: Everything counts. Panel presentation at Practical Paths to the AI-Enhanced Library Amigos Conference.
- Christian-Long, Monique (2026). Changing Tracks: From Public to Academic Librarianship. Presentation at the Texas Library Association Annual Conference.
- de Verges, Jolene (2025). Managing Music Collections in Digital Commons: Exploring the Intersection of Musical Content, Evolving Legal Frameworks, and Technical Requirements in Open Access Repositories. Presentation at the Elsevier Impact Conference.
- de Verges, Jolene (2025). Special Collections, Special Needs: Lessons Learned from Managing a Moving Image Archive. Presentation at the Visual Resources Association Annual Conference.
- Elia, Anthony (2025). The Biography of Methodist Biographies. Presentation at the final conference of the William Burt's Italian Papers Project, hosted at the Sapienza University of Rome.
- Elia, Anthony (2025). Bridwell Press: New Approaches to Open Access Translations and Affordable Publishing on Central Asia. Presentation at Academic Libraries: Trends and Innovations (ALTI), American University of Central Asia, Bishkek.
- Elia, Anthony (2025). Launching the new Journal of Praise & Worship. Keynote presentation at the Christian Congregational Music Conference, Oxford University.
- Elia, Anthony (2025). Publishing Open Access on Italian & Diasporic History. Presentation at the NYU Global Italian Religious Networks (GLIRN) Conference.
- Heuer, Megan, and Julia Anderson (2026). Reading beneath the surface: Reimagining information literacy beyond searching and evaluating. Presentation at the LOEX 2026 conference.
- Jenkins, Sarah (2025). Consistent, Accessible, Engaging: A Strategic Approach to Library Content Across Platforms. Webinar for the Professional Development Alliance.
- Johnston, Carrie, and Rafia Mirza (2025). Navigating the Unknown: AI Tools for Humanities Research. Presentation at the Texas Digital Humanities Symposium.
- Martin, Russell L., Cynthia Franco, Anne Peterson, Benjamin Jenkins, and Christina Wood (2026). Texas History Resources at SMU: Old & New. Presentation at the Texas State Historical Association Annual Meeting.
- Rinehart, Tracey, and Melissa Johnson (2026). Rejuvenate Adjuncts with a Library Retreat. Online instruction session for Lifelong Information Literacy (LILi).
- Lenahan, John, Rebecca Segar, Sarah Haight Sanabria, Alicia Hansen, Brian Hughes, Fredric Nachbauer, and Dean Smith (2026). From model to practice: Evaluating Publisher Collections in academic libraries. Webinar presented by JSTOR and Library Journal.
- Schemm, Naomi, and Rebecca Paulraj (2026). Make Your Videos Accessible. Session at the Digital Accessibility in Libraries Amigos Conference.
- Siu, Natasha (2026). API's & AI in Resource Sharing and Collections: Automate the Boring Stuff. Panel presentation at the Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA) Joint Meeting.
- Williamson, James (2025). Building Community in the Rosetta Working Group. Presentation at the International Group of Ex Libris Users Conference.
- Wood, Christina, Cynthia Franco, and Benjamin Jenkins (2026). Navigating Change in a Special Collections Library: How Southern Methodist University's DeGolyer Library Has Managed Crisis and Growth. Presentation at the Society of Southwest Archivists Annual Meeting.
- Woolsey, Becca, and Breanna Webb (2026). Discoverability of Databases: Enhancing Access and Engagement. Poster presentation at the Electronic Resources & Libraries Conference.
- Woolsey, Becca, and Breanna Webb (2026). Local vs. Community Records in Alma: Choosing What's Right for You. Presentation at the Electronic Resources & Libraries Conference.

PUBLICATIONS

- Graff, Rebecca, Melissa Johnson, and Shannon Adams (2025). Assessing Chat Transcripts. *International Journal of Librarianship*, 10(4).
- Wang, Meg (2026). Co-editor of *Library Exhibitions Review*, issue 4. Art Libraries Society of North America.
- Wilkins, Allie (2026). Archival decolonization and buffalo restoration as acts of Native American cultural reclamation. *Journal of New Librarianship*, 11(1).

FEATURES

- Franco, Cynthia (2026). Virginia Savage McAlester: Architectural Historian and Preservation Advocate. *Handbook of Texas Online*.
- Graff, Rebecca, and Matthew Torrence (2025). Teachable Moments in Reference. *RUSQ: A Journal of Reference and User Experience*, 60(4).
- Harrison, Justin (2025). Tale of an Accidental Business Librarian: Lessons From My First 3 Years. *Academic BRASS*, 20(2).
- McCune, Elisa. Featured in NPR's *All Things Considered* in 2025.

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

- Elia, Anthony. NYU Global Italian Religious Networks (GLIRN) Advisory Board; SMU Tower Center Fellow.
- Graff, Rebecca. Vice President of the ALA Reference & User Services Association.
- Jeffcoat, Holly. Chair, HathiTrust Board of Governors; Past-Chair, Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA) Board of Directors; Texas Representative, Statewide California Electronic Library Consortium (SCELC) Board of Directors; Secretary/Treasurer of Texas Digital Library (TDL) Board.
- Johnson, Melissa. Co-Chair, ALA Library Instruction Roundtable (LIRT) Teaching, Learning, and Technology Committee.
- Johnston, Carrie. Chair, Committee on Scholarly Editions, Modern Language Association; selected participant, Leadership Fellows Program, Association of Research Libraries; site PI for a \$350,000 Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, working with Susan Egenolf, Hilary Havens, Jessica Richard, Robin Runia, and Bryan Tarpley.
- Kennedy, Rahni. Chair, NACO-Music Project Advisory Committee.
- Sanabria, Sarah Haight. Co-chair, SCELC Licensing Agreement Steering Committee; member, TexShare, Database Cost Sharing Working Group.
- Williamson, James. Incoming Coordinator, Rosetta Working Group; Lead, Delivery and Integrations Working Subgroup, Rosetta Working Group.

NEW HIRES

- Jennifer Britton
- Ben Jenkins
- Diana Pleites

HONORING RETIREES

- Janet Allmon
- Gayle Freeman-Staggs
- Greg Ivy
- Sandy Miller

DEGREES AND AWARDS

- Christian-Long, Monique. Doctor of Education in Higher Education and Outstanding Student Award for cohort.
- Johnson, Melissa. Winner of the People's Choice Award for the "When AI Becomes Your Copy Coach" Copilot poster at the 2026 SMU OIT Technology Showcase.
- Wolff, Donna. Distinguished Faculty Member, awarded by SMU Dedman Women in Law (WIL).





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