

# NEWS *from* FONDREN

A LIBRARY NEWSLETTER TO THE RICE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

## PARTING THOUGHTS FROM DR. CHARLES HENRY

Dr. Charles Henry, Vice Provost and University Librarian is leaving Rice in March to head the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) in Washington, D.C. Dr. Henry was interviewed in February by Melinda Reagor Flannery, Assistant University Librarian for Technical Services.

**Looking back at the last decade, what will you remember as having been your greatest achievements at Rice? Greatest challenges?**

Some achievements I hold most dear—the quality and professionalism of the staff. My one great source of pride is the way everyone comes together, works as a community, and is pleased to be a part of the Rice community and Fondren Library. Second, the renovation—a long time coming but worth the effort. It looks



*Dr. Charles Henry, outgoing Vice Provost and University Librarian*

good and from what I understand is well-received. It has brought programmatic enhancements to collaboration; quiet, private spaces; transparency of functions; and an increase in interaction between staff and clients. Last, the Digital Library Initiative—there was no DLI when I arrived. Through the diligence and creativity of the staff, Fondren has made up for lost time and is now known as one of the most creative libraries in transforming library functions and the library profession.

**How did your period of service as Rice's Chief Information Officer (2000-2002) affect your view of the role of technology in libraries and in the academy at large?**

I came away with a deeper understanding of the complexities and costs of technology, and increased awareness of the utter dependence of universities and libraries on technological infrastructure. Nothing we do is not dependent on it. There is a reluctance of institutions to grapple programmatically with the changes that technology entails, changes in teaching, definition of the library and the university, etc. There are sporadic discussions, but wrestling with this issue is unusually difficult. Rice is not alone. The reluctance to pool perspectives to explore the issues can lead to sporadic and ad hoc deployment of technology.

Another aspect of technology is

## INSIDE *this* ISSUE

<i>Interview with Dr. Charles Henry</i> .....	pg. 2
<i>Fondren Library Artwork</i> .....	pg. 4
<i>Updated Web Catalog</i> .....	pg. 6
<i>Electronic Journal Portal</i> .....	pg. 7
<i>Hidden Treasures</i> .....	pg. 8
<i>Did you Know?</i> .....	pg. 7
<i>Library Renovation Celebrations</i> .....	pg. 10
<i>Sixth Floor Renovations</i> .....	pg. 11
<i>Library Statistics</i> .....	pg. 12

the inherent obsolescence of one's skills. There is a fundamental need to learn and relearn.

**What have you done that makes you feel "caught up?"**

My recent work on the American Council of Learned Societies cyber-infrastructure report\* makes me feel current, at least for the next few months.

**What seems problematic to you?**

There are many discipline-specific reports. But for a national cyberinfrastructure with a coherent design and federated capabilities—the tools and expertise needed have not yet begun to be mustered. Where these resources will come from and how leadership will work is yet unknown. This problem will not be solved by any one leader or any single profession. The issue is not just faster networks and more astute grid algorithms, but the dependence of all disciplines across campus on such an infrastructure. Without it, the country will fall behind. The academy does not really understand what is coming. The problem must be articulated in a way that is interesting, edifying, and conducive to collaboration. Universities are inherently conservative, of knowledge, of methodologies—slowly testing results, acquiring, building on the past. A phenomenon as complex and pervasive, of such unprecedented rapidity, causing such a complex suite of changes, is too complicated for comfort. The structures are not designed for it. Libraries are not alone in being unprepared. And the relationship between a library and its university is now not only one of

service, but also being an integral part of the university's strategic direction. There are changes in duty and attitude, and interdisciplinary collaboration is essential.

**Libraries continue to be looked to for traditional services as well as an increasing number of digitally-based ones, spilling into areas also occupied by course management, publishing, direct instruction, etc. How do you see libraries moving from their current balance of services into the future?**

The easy answer is that libraries will increasingly emphasize the digital, but it isn't that simple. The challenge to Fondren and all important research libraries will be how to structure the integration of digital and traditional services. There are no answers. The issue must be explored from different angles. One of the great insights of *Beowulf* is that the social and cultural structures we set up ostensibly to regulate and normalize behaviors and make them more efficacious are the very structures that destroy us. We need to look at the way our structures impede us. In *Beowulf*, the money-for-life equation allowed a beset tribe to accept payment for loss of life and treasure instead of exacting vengeance. At a wedding banquet uniting a royal couple from two tribes, one drunken guest says to another member of his tribe, "Isn't that your uncle's sword?" Seeing his traditional treasures worn by others led to a bloodbath and the dissolution of the bond between the tribes. The structures we set up to prevent behaviors can actually lead to worse behaviors. We need to be aware.

**To what extent do you believe the strong cultural trend toward rich, manipulable multimedia content; hand-held devices; and continuous connectivity will affect the land-**

**scape of academic libraries and the institutions they serve?**

In the abstract, the trend has already affected us. The library as place is already as diffuse and dispersed as one could imagine. The more important question concerns the quality of information and the efficacy of its use—it could enrich us; it could compromise all we stand for. Certain large data projects, such as the Shoah archives, the Sloan Digital Sky Survey, and certain particle physics efforts, generate four or five times the data in all of the holdings in the Library of Congress, every year. We are nowhere near making this data effective. The ubiquity of data can render it useless. The problem is not devices, but content. We have not begun to solve this problem.

The new devices have potential, but may have conflicting uses. Through cell phones we may create intimacy over distances; through a Second Life avatar certain individuals may actualize something about themselves impossible to live in their daily lives. Yet there is a certain unreality. It unbundles the self as an iPod unbundles musical creation. We can unbundle and reconstitute ourselves several times in a day. What that process means is unclear.

**What trends do you see in the management of academic libraries, both individually and as a group? What heartens you? What concerns you?**

Interesting and, on the surface, appealing is the broader range of backgrounds in key management and director roles. The University of Michigan has just hired Paul Courant, a prominent economist, bringing a new and refreshing perspective on the economy of libraries. Emory's Richard Luce comes from the Los Alamos digital library initiative. These appointments are intuitively

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\*Our Cultural Commonwealth: the Report of the American Council of Learned Societies Commission on Cyberinfrastructure for the Humanities and Social Sciences. New York: ACLS, 2006

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tive but not necessarily expected. Whether this kind of appointment is a trend is not yet clear, but it is something to watch. A deep concern over the past ten years is a strong resistance to collaboration, the inherent culture of localized interests. We are working against our own best interests.

**What qualities in library staff do you think will most accompany institutional success in the challenges that lie ahead of us all?**

I like to see librarians excited about being alive in a time that is so complex and ambiguous, taking delight in a moderately managed chaos. Many of the issues we face transcend the library profession, but that isn't reason enough not to be delighted. Another characteristic would be a predisposition to collaborate. On the Committee on the Rice Undergraduate Program we have been trying to look at student awareness of issues like global warming, nuclear proliferation. Ten years ago the development of palm oil as a clean biofuel led to tremendous smog in Indonesia, where the trees were cut down and their soil burnt for replanting. Everything wasn't thought through by all the people that should have been at the table. Solving such problems requires collaboration, and academics have trouble knowing how to work for change without compromising their disciplines.

**In your career, you have been an active player with any number of organizations devoted to libraries and broader intellectual heritage issues. In CLIR, you will be heading such an organization. Can you say anything about the work of CLIR and its impact on libraries like ours?**

CLIR's most important contribution has been and will continue to

be as a trusted, neutral organization that contracts for respected, salient research touching on libraries and other information issues. For the next five years, CLIR will focus its resources and acumen on a research agenda including: cyberinfrastructure for the humanities and social sciences, leadership, the emerging library, preservation, and what I would loosely call new models. By that, I mean we will embark on a program of routine investigation of new ways of collaborating, new services, new projects, new research methods. It's a large net that will help us understand what changes are afoot and, to a certain extent, promulgate and manage them.

**Besides CLIR, what organizations do you think are providing the most useful guidance to libraries at this pivotal time?**

I don't want to leave anyone out. OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) is doing fine research that is enormously insightful and helpful. ARL (Association of Research Libraries) is developing a new strategic plan that should reinvigorate its role as a strategic presence in the development of libraries and librarianship. The NSF (National Science Foundation) has generously funded digital library initiatives. The Mellon Foundation has created and sustained resources we all use such as ArtSTOR and JSTOR. I admire ALA (American Library Association) for its insistence on free speech, uncensored exchange, open dialogue. I was staying with my sister and her family for the recent ALA meeting in Seattle, and she asked what was going on. I told her people were doing a lot with metadata and that there was also a movement to impeach George Bush. I was proud of the bravery and boldness in that.

**Washington, DC is obviously a hub of political, foundation, and cultural and intellectual activity. What are you most anticipating about being there?**

There are certain qualities of many people in funding agencies, bureaucracies, that belie the stereotype of the typical bureaucrat. There are so many people who want to improve the world, genuinely do good. Working for many years with these people is the main thing that made me want to move there. They are engaged in social and intellectual issues at a very high level. They have given over their lives to them—it's contagious. I notice especially this at the program officer level.

**Is there anything you would like to have been asked and weren't? What was it and what was your answer?**

Something about the Digital Rubicon we have already crossed. The world is irreparably changed. Digital technology has broken old models. Do we have the acumen and will to build something new and hopeful? What will we leave the next generation? We have already repeated so many mistakes. We can use digital technology to spy on people or to reinvent ourselves. The question is open.

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# ART ON DISPLAY IN FONDREN LIBRARY

With the completion of the renovation, the availability of space for the library to display artwork has greatly increased. Art has always played an integral role at Fondren Library, but changes to areas including Woodson Research Center, the Hobby Information Commons, and the Brown Fine Arts Library are allowing the library to display several new items and to relocate other important pieces.

Perhaps most visible are two works by Dorothy Hood, previously on display in the Brown Fine Arts Library and now prominently located on the first floor. Dorothy Hood was born in Bryan, Texas in 1919; was raised in Houston; and studied at the Rhode Island School of Design. She resettled in Houston in 1961 and was involved in the Houston art scene until her death here in the year 2000. Her artwork has been labeled surrealist abstrac-

tion and was greatly influenced by time spent in Mexico. She typically created large-scale oil paintings noted for their interesting use of color.

The two works on display are representative examples. Situated on the east side of the Hobby Information Commons, *Extensor of the Sky* was painted in 1970 and donated to the university by Louisa Stude Sarofim. Visible from the west side, the 1975 work *Chimera* was donated to the university by Dr. and Mrs. Alfred S. Goodman.

Located on the third floor in the Brown Fine Arts Library is a work by another artist with Houston ties. Lamar Briggs was born in Lafayette, Louisiana, in 1935. He studied at the University of Houston in the 1950s and currently resides in Palm Beach, Florida. His works include abstract monotypes and acrylic paintings. *China Lake No. 25*, a large acrylic on canvas, was painted in 1982 and

donated by Harold Marcus Hecht.

The library is proud also to display several portraits. Portraits of Walter and Ella Fondren, for whom the Rice library is named, are hung in the east entryway. Viewed from the Information Commons named in her honor is a portrait of Oveta Culp Hobby. Mrs. Hobby's impact on the social, cultural, and historical landscape of Houston is legendary. She held many positions at *The Houston Post*, eventually buying the newspaper with her husband, William P. Hobby. She served as the first commanding officer of the Women's Army Corps and was the first secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. She was an avid collector of art and donated numerous works to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, including pieces by Picasso, Matisse, Modigliani, Miró, and Vlaminc. Mrs. Hobby passed away in 1995. In December of 1997 the Hobby Foundation donated \$21.4 million specifically earmarked for improvements to Fondren Library. The portrait was painted in 1958 by Bjorn Egeli, a prominent portrait painter who created official portraits of former U.S. presidents Dwight Eisenhower and Richard Nixon. The portrait was generously donated to the library by Mr. and Mrs. William P. Hobby, Jr.

The Woodson Research Center has on display several portraits of individuals with a connection to the university.



*Chimera by Dorothy Hood*



*Portrait of Oveta Culp Hobby by Bjorn Egeli*

Joining a reproduction portrait of founder William Marsh Rice are portraits of his first wife, Margaret Bremond Rice, and his brother, Frederick Allyn Rice. A large portrait of Mary Ellen Hale Lovett, wife of Edgar Odell Lovett, also is on view. Other Rice University items of note on display in Woodson include a series of historical photographic prints of the campus taken from original glass negatives, and several architectural renderings of the campus.

Numerous pieces of sculpture also are on view throughout the library. One of the most dynamic works is *Autumn Breeze II*, a large owl created by San Antonio artist Bob Guelich. Situated near the east entry of the library, the work was discovered by former university president Malcolm Gillis. It was loaned to the university in 1995, and eventually Mrs. Wesley West donated funds to

allow the university to purchase the sculpture.

Another spectacular piece of sculpture in Fondren is by noted Houston artist Jim Love. The artist is well-known for another piece located on campus, entitled *Paul Bunyan Bouquet No. 2*. Located in the Lovett College commons, this intricate work is made from discarded railroad equipment. Fondren's piece is *In the Park with Krazy Kat*, a quirky welded steel sculpture completed in 1990. Housed in the Brown Fine Arts Library, the work was commissioned by several friends of Pat Toomey, long-time slide curator in the Art and Art History Department, after her death.

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*Extensor of the Sky by Dorothy Hood*

*The Woodson  
Research Center  
has on display  
several portraits of  
individuals with a  
connection to the  
university.*

# FONDREN WEBCAT GETS A NEW LOOK

Fondren Library's web catalog, WebCat, has been upgraded with a new look and additional features. Users now have a cleaner, more functional interface to use when searching for library resources. Buttons have been replaced with drop-down menus on the catalog's front page, and links have been added to allow users to get to other library resources quickly.

The screenshot shows the 'Search the Fondren Catalog' page. It features a search bar with a 'Search Catalog by:' label, radio buttons for 'Keyword' (selected) and 'Begins with', a text input field, a 'words anywhere' dropdown menu, and a 'Search Catalog' button. Below the search bar is a 'library:' dropdown menu set to 'ALL'. To the right, under 'Other Search Options', there are links for 'Advanced Search', 'Search Fondren's Video Collection', and 'Call Number Browse'.

Search results now contain in-screen cross references if they are available. After the user runs a search in the catalog, a list of categories is returned that contains terms found with those already used in the search. By clicking on these links the user can quickly view different subject areas in relation to the word or phrase sought. If an item contains any sort of electronic access, an electronic link indicator now leads directly to that material.

The screenshot shows the 'Search Results' page for the query 'words anywhere "linux"'. It indicates that 119 titles were found. The results are displayed in a table with columns for item number, call number, title, author, and year. Two items are visible: 'Practical PHP and MySQL : building eight dynamic web applications' by Bacon, Jono (2007) and 'Professional LAMP : Linux, Apache, MySQL, and PHP5 Web development' by Gerner, Jason (2006). Each item has a 'Details' link and a 'Mark for print/email' checkbox. To the right, under 'You Found Titles in Categories', there is a list of related categories such as 'Economic History', 'Economic Theory, Demography, Business Cycles', 'Electrical Engineering, Nuclear Engineering', 'General Geography, Atlases, Maps', 'General Science', 'General Technology', 'General Works', 'Library Science and Information Resources', 'Mathematics, Computer Science', 'Musical Instruction and Study', 'Natural History, Biology', 'United States Law', and 'More categories'.

The single-record view page has also been enhanced. When a user views a single record there are now links to change the catalog display to find more by the author or on the same topics, or to browse nearby items on the shelf. Location information is now included in the both the search results page and the single record view.

The screenshot shows the single record view for the item 'Professional LAMP : Linux, Apache, MySQL, and PHP5 Web development' by Gerner, Jason, 1978-. The record includes fields for 'Title', 'Portion of title', 'Publication info', 'Physical description', 'Subjects', 'Personal author', and 'Held by'. Below the record, there is a 'Holdings' section with a table showing the location and due date of the item. To the right, there are links for 'Change Catalog Display', 'Find more by this author', 'Find more on these topics', and 'Nearby items on shelf'. Below these links, there is a list of categories under the heading 'You Found Titles in Categories', including 'Economic History', 'Economic Theory, Demography, Business Cycles', 'Electrical Engineering, Nuclear Engineering', 'General Geography, Atlases, Maps', 'General Science', 'General Technology', 'General Works', 'Library Science and Information Resources', 'Mathematics, Computer Science', and 'Musical Instruction and Study'.

These changes should provide users with an upgraded experience of the library's catalog as a search and discovery tool.

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# NEW ELECTRONIC JOURNAL PORTAL LAUNCHED

The new Fondren Ejournal Portal is at your service, and offers a number of new features that should make up for any disruption experienced during our migration.

Powered by Serials Solution, the new Ejournal Portal is more comprehensive and more rapidly updated than the previous system, and so will more accurately connect you to available online journal content. Most people seem greatly to prefer the compact, yet clear, display of information, including top-level display of a journal's availability via the Rice proxy.

Fondren Library has implemented the OpenURL linking of the Ejournal Portal in all possible indexes and finding aids, including *GoogleScholar* and *Windows Live Academic*, permitting you to identify when Fondren Library has purchased full-text online access to the needed content. As another improvement, the new Ejournal Portal permits us to eliminate circular linking, seeking the missing article from one of our other online collections instead of taking you back to a source that is missing a specific article. When there is a single source for a journal article, the new Ejournal Portal takes you directly to the article without intervening dialog windows. In these cases, the Portal places a "helper window" at the top of your browser to provide options should you need further assistance or information. Our goal with the Ejournal Portal linking is to speed you to the needed resources; we welcome feedback on any of the Ejournal Portal's functions, messages or aesthetics.

Please note that the old system, TDNet, continues to be available until summer, but should be used with caution, as data regarding new or cancelled titles is not being kept current there. Faculty and students who have alert notifications through the old system should contact the Reference desk for assistance in establishing new updating tools, as the existing alerts will cease with the TDNet subscription in June 2007.

Moshkovith A, Perfiliev V, Lapsker I, et al.

[Friction of fullerene-like WS<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles: effect of agglomeration](#)

TRIBOLOGY LETTERS 24 (3): 225-228 DEC 2006

Times Cited: 0



*Example of the linking within a scholarly literature index*

Clicking on the ArticleLinker icon will permit you to connect to the full text, when available, or go on to check for a paper journal or request from interlibrary loan.

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## DID *you* KNOW?

Fondren Library now allows circulation of all videos. Films include classic and more recent feature films, from *Casablanca* to *Star Wars*. Films circulate to current Rice ID holders for three days.



The Woodson Research Center recently acquired Tycho Brahe's 1648 astronomical work *Dani Opera Omnia*, combining two of his most important works, as a new addition to the History of Science collection. Tycho Brahe, who lived from 1546 to 1601, is the Danish astronomer who developed astronomical instruments and measured and fixed the positions of stars, setting the stage for future discoveries.



Following a survey of user needs, Fondren Library has added over fifty additional online journals in the areas of biomedicine, bioengineering and cognitive/neuroscience. Fondren is using new analytic tools as well as user survey input to review titles being frequently borrowed from other libraries, in order to identify materials needed locally.

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# CAMPUS HISTORY REVEALED THROUGH FORGOTTEN ITEMS



*Victorian settee*

Picture, if you will, moldy, dilapidated, locked file cabinets stuffed with papers. Alongside them are dented and scratched oval-shaped objects as well as aging wooden boxes encasing dusty tubes, domes, and dials. Here are rolls of linen with hand-drawn grotesque shapes in vivid colors. Crumbling cardboard boxes are filled with what appears to be biology experiments gone awry. Metal frameworks of glass bulbs and jumbles of wires tower nearby. A worn and beautifully patinated oak cabinet features sliding glass doors bearing embossed numbers. This might look like a holding area for items slated to be sold or trashed, but it is actually a storage room for the university archives, rarely seen by the public or campus staff. For Rice archivists and historians, both amateur and professional, this is a gold mine of Rice history, some with a story, but mostly forgotten pieces of Rice's illustrious

past that may have been mentioned in passing or that occasionally appear in old, sepia-toned photographs.

Fortunately for Rice, the Woodson Research Center, repository for university archives, manuscript collections, and rare books in Fondren Library, accepts these items with great interest. Along with countless cubic feet of paper records, such things are being discovered during a university-wide cleanup to create more space and rid the campus of what most would consider "junk." Following recent office moves and renovations, a cleanup on this scale is unprecedented.

When an unusual item is found, the university archivist and university historian salivate at the prospect of historical significance. Speculating where the "good stuff" might be and armed with flashlights and empty boxes ready to fill, Lee Pecht (Head of Special Collections) and Melissa

Kean (Rice Centennial Historian) scour basements, closets, attics, and to the horror of some, offices, to unearth treasures that have been buried under old furniture and fixtures, stuffed in drawers, or even sitting in the open. The search is somewhat akin to dumpster diving, but perhaps "scrounging" is a nicer term. Often an item is of too great an historical importance to leave behind, so it is hand-carried to the library. Did you ever wonder why the same two people are often seen around campus lumbering under the weight of a heavy object or trying to carry far too much? Don't think for a second that a true find won't get into Woodson's secure area as soon as possible.

Sometimes the earliest campus buildings yield the most historical artifacts. However, if the building has had overzealous caretakers, the items may not have survived. On a forage to Lovett Hall's basement, which, by the way, has low ceilings and even lower hanging pipes (ouch!), mounds of chairs from the earliest lecture halls, megaphones, and yearbooks were found in damp, dark recesses. The accidental discovery of a door disguised to blend into its surroundings created initial excitement, but the sizeable room beyond had already been plundered of anything of historical value.

Old, blackened trophies from the elaborate case in the student center have been passed along to make room for newer pieces. A Victorian settee with hand-carved owl likenesses on its crest and arms, once designated as a discard, now graces Woodson's reception room. Oak armchairs once housed in Baker





*Oak armchair from 1912*

College Commons and thrown on the curb for trash during a renovation are now reappearing. Dating from 1912 and probably near fifty in number, their backs are carved in an owl shape with a cutout of an owl near the top.

The Woodson staff has the intensive job of accessioning, identifying, cataloging, and preserving the items. Colleagues Amanda Focke, Phil Montgomery and Lisa Moellering brainstorm with Pecht in the attempt to determine if there is any provenance for the items, if any period photographs exist, and if the items can be cleaned or made serviceable for display purposes. With a little detective work, the archivists can determine if a piece is actually from Rice, but sometimes estimating its age or purpose is guesswork. If a piece was found and can be displayed in its original condition, its appeal is increased. The artifacts are of the greatest visual interest and will be conversation pieces for the approaching Rice centennial in 2012.

While artifacts are a major component of Woodson's holdings, departmental records and both pro-

fessional and personal papers make up the meatier portion of the university archives. So far, records of an early presidential assistant, a dean of undergraduates, a provost, and various campus offices have been delivered to Woodson. Sound recordings on reel-to-reel tape along with architectural drawings of campus buildings await inventory and preservation. Some of the materials are vital to completing departmental histories, while others will give insight to details for future renovations. Even though Woodson receives many duplicate materials and much that seems to be general trash, it is better to let the archivists decide on worth. From the bizarre and broken to the pristine and highly-prized, Woodson's staff does not want to overlook anything that might offer a fresh glimpse into Rice's past.

Is your curiosity piqued by a locked and ignored desk or cabinet or a packed and near-forgotten storage room and the promise of what might be inside? Have you ever spied a unique item while poring over an old photograph, and wondered what happened to it? Who has that item

that you know must exist somewhere? There are many caches of objects and records around campus, from the old Chemistry building's displays to those of the athletic facilities, but items in these places are kept in good conditions, clean and secure. The current campus cleanup includes materials that are in danger of being lost. These materials may not be old, but are of historical importance to the university. The effort is to clear the clutter, bringing those things to Woodson's attention and rescuing Rice's history. And maybe, just maybe one day, we will locate what some think may be Woodson's Holy Grail—actual photographs of William Marsh Rice.

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*Scientific instruments and models*

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# FONDREN CELEBRATES RENOVATIONS



*Students celebrate at outdoor festival*

The successfully completed renovation of Fondren Library is cause for celebration. Accordingly, the Rice community and friends were invited to join Fondren staff for several special events.

On December 1, students gathered at a festival held in the Central Quadrangle near the new entrance to Fondren. They were treated to ice cream from Ben and Jerry's and coffee from Diedrich's as well as popcorn and other treats, courtesy of Rice Catering. A raffle was held for three prizes. And the winners were: Kelley Liao, Weiss Freshman, who won a digital camera, Jennifer Shiu, Lovett junior, who won a memory stick, and Guy Weissinger, Baker junior, who won a fifty dollar Fondren copy/print card.

Meanwhile, inside the library, Rice faculty, staff, and area librarians mingled at an open house on the second floor. Vice Provost and University Librarian Chuck Henry welcomed them, describing the new library space as "engaging and compelling." He commented that "students and faculty have flocked to the open rooms, study areas, and renovated service points. The renovation was designed to invigorate Fondren by addressing the social nature of learning and new knowledge acquisition, and on that count it has

exceeded expectations. Fondren is a wonderful place for students and faculty to collaborate [and] for students to discuss their interests outside of class and to meet new friends." Fondren librarians offered tours of the new areas, including the newly visible Woodson Research Center, the technology-enhanced study rooms, and the sixth-floor study space with its vistas of Rice and Houston.

Other receptions were held on November 30 and December 12 for the people whose donations made possible the library's new spaces. President David Leebron and Chuck Henry both expressed their deep thanks to these generous donors.

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*Student enters to win drawing*



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# RENOVATION OF FONDREN'S SIXTH FLOOR

Step out of Fondren Library's elevator B or stairwell D on the sixth floor and you will see the crown jewel of the library's recent renovation. In a full, yet surprisingly quiet, reading room, students study at group tables, individual study tables, or in comfortable lounge chairs. The space is airy and light with a 360° view of campus. In a large study room, you may see a training session in progress or a group of students collaborating on a joint project. A smaller study room is popular for individual and group work.

In a user survey and focus groups conducted in 2001/2002, Rice students expressed a need for additional quiet study spaces in the library. Accessible only with a Rice ID card, the sixth-floor reading room addresses that need. The room officially opened in December and immediately became a popular and heavily used study area, with sixty-eight seats in the main room, fifteen seats in the study rooms and twenty-eight lockers. Each semester the library will hold a lottery to assign the lockers to graduate students.

The sixth floor features collaborative technology, including a flat-panel display in the large study room and wireless Internet access throughout. Whiteboards are available in both study rooms. The atmosphere is calm and restful, with furnishings in light, natural tones; marble and glass table tops; and wooden screens. Two exhibit cases provide a focal point near the entrance. Student response to the



*Study tables, facing west*



*Informal seating, facing north*

sixth-floor renovation has been overwhelmingly positive, the sole lament being that it is often quite crowded.

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## NEWS from FONDREN

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## LIBRARY STATISTICS

COLLECTIONS	FY03	FY06
Volumes in library:	2,314,820	2,474,352
Net Volumes Added During Year:	57,479	37,175
Current Serials:	36,889	35,412*
Microforms:	3,074,402	3,204,245
Government Documents (Uncataloged)	55,920	55,896
Computer Files:	13,427	14,749
Manuscripts and Archives (Linear Feet):	5,664	6,658
Cartographic Materials:	26,804	26,997
Audio Materials:	37,251	42,979
Graphic Materials:	33,573	33,573
Films and Videos:	8,819	11,470
CIRCULATIONS (Excluding Reserves)	218,194	215,057
INTERLIBRARY LOANS		
Requests to Loan Materials:	11,132	13,802
Requests to Borrow Materials:	11,913	10,758

\*Includes journals available through content aggregators.



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