LETTER FROM THE DEAN

One of the four major goals outlined in our Strategic Plan is to assure the quality and relevance of collections for campus and global communities, which are essential to the University’s national competitiveness and embody our intellectual identities and research ambitions. New technologies and expectations are revolutionizing information discovery, creation, dissemination, and preservation, and we at the University of Houston Libraries are changing the ways in which we acquire and make transformative collections accessible to students and researchers, both locally and globally.

In this issue, we shine a light on the unique resources of UH Libraries Special Collections, truly a gem at the heart of the campus and community. Our archivists contributed illuminating narratives that take us deeper into the world of the archive, where unique and compelling materials are preserved and shared, and where notable people of history, as well as contemporaries, are celebrated and immortalized in the public record.

We are actively expanding our special collections, especially in the areas of the Carey Shuart Women’s Research Collection, Energy & Sustainability Research Collection, Hispanic Research Collection, LGBT Research Collection, and Houston Hip Hop Research Collection, as well as creating new resources for students and researchers, such as the forthcoming Digital Research Commons and enhanced learning and study spaces.

I am pleased to share that we are very fortunate to have quite a number of exceptional leaders who have stepped forward to vanguard our special research collections, help us transform our library spaces, and build scholarship support. These members are collectively known as the UH Libraries Campaign Committee & Cabinet as part of the University’s Here, We Go! Campaign. Their names are listed in this newsletter for the first time, and I extend my sincere thanks to each one of them. They have volunteered their time, talents, and treasures to help the University of Houston Libraries grow into the library of the future. For this I am most grateful.

Your support is absolutely crucial, whether it’s a contribution to a research collection, a transformational gift, the “planting” of an Acorn endowment, or an annual fund gift, and helps us to thrive in order to empower others and transform lives. There are many ways to establish your legacy. Please visit info.lib.uh.edu/about/giving for more information.

I look forward to seeing you at Libraries events. We have some exciting things planned, so please watch for announcements of our programs and exhibits.

I invite you to join us on our ambitious journey of empowering others and transforming lives. On behalf of the University of Houston Libraries, thank you for your partnership.

Lisa A. German
Dean of Libraries and Elizabeth D. Rockwell Chair
Why the Her-stories of the Shuart Women’s Research Collection Matter to Us All
by Vince Lee
As UH Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies celebrates its 25th anniversary, we reflect on the creation of the Carey Shuart Women’s Research Collection that supports the program’s scholarship and instruction. Armed with a box of materials left to her from her grandmother, Carey Shuart, along with the department and through tireless advocacy and networking, planted the seeds that would grow into over 80 archival collections and 70 oral histories.

Since its founding in 1996, the Shuart Women’s Research Collection demonstrates that Houston and Texas women have always been at the forefront, forging their paths and telling their own stories. Refusing to accept the status quo or letting others define their place in society, their stories can be found across time periods and in every area of endeavor, from their fight for equality in the suffrage and feminist movements to their triumphs in politics and philanthropy. Empowered through communal support, women have continually redefined what is possible in all areas of life.

Today, more than ever, Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies and the Shuart Women’s Research Collection matter. The archive helps us to understand the world in which we live from a social, political, economic, and humanistic standpoint, and opens the discourse on how we can bridge the gap to understanding one another collectively.

Energy & Sustainability Research Collection
by Terry Tomkins-Walsh
The Energy & Sustainability Research Collection preserves the history of energy in all configurations and consequences. Sun, wind, and petroleum fuel human activity, and markets powered by human action capture, prioritize, and apportion sources of energy. Each source of energy has a centuries-old history. We in Special Collections seek to preserve histories of energy in the form of medieval broadsides, epistolary assemblages, corporate records, and print and digital publications, both serials and books.

Special Collections is expanding current energy holdings and anticipating new contributions of national and international significance. The Papers of Joseph S. Cullinan, the founder of Texaco, is our seminal petroleum industry collection.

Collaboration and Scholarship at the Heart of LGBT Research Collection
by Christian Kelleher
Earlier this year while UH Religious Studies lecturer Whitney Cox, PhD was researching the history of Houston’s religious organizations’ community support at the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, her work took her to the AIDS Foundation Houston (AFH). There, Cox found a trove of unique, primary source historical documentation stored in an office file cabinet.

“AFH was the first AIDS service organization in Texas, and their records are indispensable to understanding the history and impact of HIV/AIDS in Houston’s LGBT community,” Cox observed. “CEO Kelly Young and I both agreed that the AFH archive needed to be preserved for the community and available to students and scholars.”

Cox and Young reached out to UH Libraries, and our LGBT Research Collection archivist Vince Lee partnered with them to safeguard the documentary legacy of AFH in UH Special Collections. Here, our work and the archive will promote teaching, learning, research, and memory of the AIDS epidemic in Houston.

UH Libraries is a proud participant in the Houston Area Rainbow Collective History group, and is honored that the LGBT Research Collection is home to the AFH archive and others like the Botts Collection of LGBT History, Inc., the Edward L. and Mildred S. Cox, Odd Fellows collection, the Gay Studies Collection library, and the Annise Parker Papers.

George Baker’s Mexico Energy collection, currently in processing, promises a rich mixture of PEMEX documents plus expert analysis of international energy markets.

As we seek collections revealing global energy leadership based in Houston, we welcome collections offering insight into the histories of solar and wind power, and we aim to collect personal papers and company records related to the role of women in energy.
The University of Houston Archives: Safeguarding Our University’s History
by Mary Manning

The University of Houston Archives is the storehouse of the University’s memories, documenting the history of our University since its founding in 1927. It holds records produced by the University in the course of its teaching, research, service, and outreach activities and documents its evolution and growth from a junior college to Tier One institution.

The UH Archives details student life as evidenced through records of student organizations, including Frontier Fiesta, Homecoming, and the Student Government Association. The Archives holds a complete run of the student-run newspaper The Daily Cougar, as well as the Houstonian yearbook, the latter of which is available in its entirety in the UH Digital Library.

UH Archives gives proof to the spectacular history of athletics on campus and hold materials related to Phi Slama Jama, the Game of the Century, and Olympian Carl Lewis.

Documenting Community and Culture with the Performing & Visual Arts Research Collection
by Mary Manning

The arts are an essential part of education and in understanding the world. From dance and music to theatre and the visual arts, the Performing & Visual Arts Research Collection captures the passions and emotions of artists as they investigate, and subsequently, allow us, the listeners and viewers, to explore new ideas and cultures.

The Performing & Visual Arts Research Collection contains the records of Houston area arts organizations, such as the Nina Vance Alley Theatre Papers and the DiverseWorks Records, as well as the papers of prominent visual artists Bert Long and The Art Guys, and ballet dancer and founder of the Houston Ballet Academy Tatiana Semenova.

A City and a State on the move: Houston & Texas History Research Collection
by Vince Lee

The Houston & Texas History Research Collection at UH Libraries contains a wide range of materials that document the early history of Texas from the Spanish Colonial Era through the present. Additionally, materials chronicling the development and transformation of Houston and the surrounding areas into a metropolis of commerce and shipping are captured in photographs, documents, and ephemera that embody the spirit of this dynamic and diverse city.

Ozone Magazine Celebrates Southern Hip Hop
by Julie Grob

As the title of Port Arthur-based duo UGK’s song “Quit Hatin’ the South” suggests, for many years Southern rap fans felt looked down on by fans of more prominent East Coast and West Coast rappers. Magazines tended to ignore the vibrant underground scenes that were flourishing in cities like Houston, away from the national spotlight. One spirited exception was OZONE Magazine, the leading print publication on Southern hip hop from 2002 to 2010. Brash and colorful, OZONE both documented and reflected Southern hip hop culture in its no-holds-barred interviews, photographs, and articles.

UH Libraries Special Collections recently acquired the complete run of OZONE Magazine to add to its Houston Hip Hop Research Collection. Published by photographer Julia Beverly, the magazine profiled Southern rappers such as Lil’ Wayne, T.I., David Banner, and Pitbull. OZONE also featured important Houston-area artists, including Devin the Dude, UGK, Lil’ Flip, Slim Thug, Paul Wall, Mike Jones, and Chamillionaire.

As the Libraries’ Houston Hip Hop Research Collection continues to grow, OZONE will be a valuable resource for the scholars visiting from around the country to put the critical spotlight on Southern hip hop.

A Mosaic of Voices and Experiences: the Hispanic Research Collection
by Lisa Cruces

Established in 2014 with the purpose of expanding the dynamic story of Hispanics living in the United States, the Hispanic Research Collection has blossomed into much more, bringing history to life by engaging students and community members with archival documents and artifacts in the form of instruction, and programming and exhibits that reflect their own experiences and voices. Focused on more contemporary topics in Hispanic history, such as literature, gender, entrepreneurship, and social justice, the collections speak to not only the past but to the future.

A particular gem in the collections is the Kanellos Latino Literary Movement Collection, arguably the largest collection of contemporary Latino literature in the country. Donated by Brown Foundation Professor of Hispanic Studies Nicolás Kanellos, PhD, this material, along with other holdings in the Hispanic Research Collection further UH’s mission of diversity and scholarship. “You name it, we’ve got it,” Kanellos stated. “And now we’re passing this on to Special Collections for all scholars to use, and of course for my current students to use.”

Creating a richer understanding of the past for the benefit of the public and scholars will continue to drive the growth of the Hispanic Research Collection well into the future.

The KUHT Collection
by Emily Vinson

On May 25, 1953, KUHT-TV began broadcasting from the University of Houston campus as the nation’s first non-commercial, educational television station. The KUHT Collection includes over 200 boxes of scripts, publications, and photographs, as well as over 14,000 films and videos that capture over sixty years of locally made television.

Dr. Richard J. Evans (1922-2015) giving a demonstration on all-female band at UH in 1953.
Hines College of Architecture Posters
As part of our Houston & Texas History Research Collection, the Gerald D. Hines School of Architecture Posters feature striking graphic designs advertising course offerings as well as lectures and other events. The School of Architecture had a screen printing press in the 1970s, and many of these posters were produced by students, faculty, and staff in-house. They come in a variety of sizes, some as small as legal paper size, while others are much larger. Although many of the posters are undated, the bulk of the posters are from the 1970s. There are more than 80 posters in the collection.

Burdette Keeland Architectural Drawings and Photographs
As part of our Houston & Texas History Research Collection, Burdette Keeland, Jr. was an influential Houston architect who left a legacy as a designer, an educator, and a member of the Houston Planning Commission. At the peak of his practice, from 1950 to 1980, Keeland produced some of the city’s best modernist architectural design. Yet he will also be remembered for his four decades on the faculty of the University of Houston, where he dedicated himself to mentoring the next generation of architects. This digital collection provides a sample of five of his imaginative works, including architectural drawings and renderings, photographs, clippings, and audio interviews.

Mary F. Lopez Papers
As part of our Hispanic Research Collection, the Mary F. Lopez Papers document the life and times of Mexican American activist Mary F. Lopez (1921-2015), and to a lesser extent the war-time experience of her husband, Jose R. Lopez. Originally born in Brownsville, Texas, Mary Fernandez Lopez later moved to Houston in 1943, where she started a family and began her involvement in efforts to improve living conditions and rights of Latinos in the Houston area, specifically her neighborhood of Magnolia Park.

City of Houston, Its Development and Evolution
Long before Houston was the fourth-largest city in the United States and referred to as the Energy Capital of the World, up until the twentieth century, it was simply called the Magnolia City for its natural magnolia groves found flourishing in east Houston. Although it was a simpler time, Houston was still a city on the move beginning to transform itself into the metropolis we know today, and many historical documents illustrate this shift as the City of Houston began to initiate efforts to expand commerce and transportation networks.

Medieval Manuscript Leaves and Fragments
As part of the Rare Books Collections at UH Libraries, the Medieval Manuscript Leaves and Fragments collection contains individual leaves and partial fragments from handwritten books which date from the 13th to the 16th centuries. The original books were all created in Western Europe. They were intended for religious study or liturgical use, and all but one were written during the Middle Ages. Although the original books are no longer complete, these leaves and fragments still convey the rich history and artistry of the Middle Ages.

All original materials are available in UH Libraries Special Collections.
Kelsey Brett was elected chair of Texas Library Association (TLA) District 8 for a two-year term.


Gao and Lurie presented “Chapter Website.”

Lisa Cruscio was appointed to the University of Texas at Austin School of Information Advisory Council, and was awarded a Texas Library Scholarship by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Nora Dethloff was a presenter for the Online Computer Library Center, Inc. (OCLC) webinar “Unlocking the Interlibrary Loan Code for the United States.”

Dethloff also presented “Beyond journal impact and usage statistics: Using citation analysis for collection development,” published in The Serials Librarian.

Kelli Getz is a member of the ACRL/Rare Book & Manuscript Library and the ACRL Collections Development Committee, mentor/mentoring.

Getz and Lindsay Cronk are co-authors of “Being Earnest with Collections – Let’s Get It Real: Digital Literacy Training for College and University Librarians” in the Journal of Library Administration.

Christina Gola began a one-year term as co-chair of the TLA Bylaws Committee.


Duffus co-wrote “Diversity from the Inside Out: Eight Years of the UNCG Libraries Diversity Committee” which was published in North Carolina Libraries.

Duffus presented the poster “Creating the Strategic Plan to make the Library an Incubator for Multicultural Engagement” at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) 22nd World Library and Information Congress and ALA Annual.

Michelle Malizia was the luncheon keynote speaker at the Texas Blackboard Users Group Conference.


Malone served on the Fullbright Discipline Core Group.

Lisa Martin was a presenter for the ALA RUSA BRASS Discussion Group.

Martin presented “Including Students with Disabilities in Instruction,” a virtual forum in the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) Business Reference and Services Section (BRASS) Business Reference in Academic Collections Committee, and facilitated discussion at ALA Annual per committee chair’s request.

Ariana Santiago was selected for the ALA Class of 2017 Emerging Leaders; elected outreach director of the ALA New Members Roundtable; and appointed as vice chair/chair of ACRL Instruction Section Instruction for Diverse Populations Committee.

Santiago co-presented “Grow your community: An exploration of peer mentoring for people of color” (panel) and presented “Navigating the RFP Process” at the Texas Library Association Conference with Marianne Lorio, Guajardo, and Mike Thompson.

Santiago was appointed to the Cloud” at Southeastern Chapter Law Libraries (SWALL) Joint Meeting, an IGNITE presentation with Joseph Lawson.

Guajardo was recently appointed to the ALA Association for Library Collections & Technical Services Committee, and the ELUNA PRIMO Product Working Group.

Vince Lee is a member of the Society of Southwest Archivists Nominating Committee, and the Committee of Public Awareness.

Lee presented “Duke-Peacock Records: Producing Houston’s Home Grown Heroes and Hits” at the session From Rhythm and Blues to Chopped and Screwed... and Folk Music, Too! Popular Music Collections in UH Libraries and Other Texas Libraries with Judie Groh, Mary Manning, and Norie Guthrie at the 2016 Houston History Conference.

Lee collaborated on two outreach events featuring archives: the National Coming Out Day/Banner Project/LGBTQ Resource Center event (October 11) and “Responding To Our World: A Celebration of the New Voices Breaking Boundaries Archives” (November 14).

Julie Grob is a member of the ACRL/Rare Book & Manuscript Library (RBMS) – Society of American Archivists (SAA) Joint Task Force on the Development of Guidelines for Primary Source Literacy.


Lewin-Lane presented “Creating a Beta-Space in an Academic Music Library” at the Texas Chapter, Music Library Association Fall Conference.

Richard Guajardo presented “How to Effectively Manage Electronic Resource Communications Through the ER Lifecycle” at the Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy with Mea Warren; co-author Terry Cremelain.


Mike Thompson was an invited speaker at a vendor-sponsored session, “Panel Discussion on GOBI Acquisitions and Collection Development Workflows,” at the TLA Annual Conference.


Thompson is part of a team whose ½-day preconference proposal was accepted for the 2017 TLA Annual Conference. The session entitled “You, Me & RFP: Making the Most of a Complex Process” is sponsored by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and is scheduled for next April.

Cherie Turner was elected co-chair of the ACRL Science and Technology Section Information Literacy Committee; and is now webmaster for the ACRL Science and Technology Section Publications Committee.

Emily Vinson and Bethany Scott presented “Card Catalog Conversion: The Revenant” at TCDL.

Invinson presented “Alternative Access: A Creative Solution for an Imperfect Digital Library” at Society of American Archives Conference; and Committee/Cooper: Case Studies from Regional Video Collections at Association of Moving Image Archives Conference.


Weidner attended the Digital POWRR Texas Digital Library (TDL) digital preservation workshop “From Theory to Action: A Pragmatic Approach to Digital Preservation Strategies and Tools” at Trinity University.

Annie Wu was elected to serve as co-counselor-at-large at ALA Council.

Wu and Drew Krewer co-authored “Maximizing Efficiency & Standardization in Digitization at University of Houston Libraries: A Program-Based vs. Project-Based Approach,” which appeared in Journal of Digital Media Management.

Wu and Xueqiao Wang presented “Core Competencies for Information Organization in the Digital Era” at Beijing University Library.

Daniel Phibok
UX & Web Content Strategy Coordinator

Orlando Duffus
Business Librarian

Rachel Helbing
Health Sciences Librarian

Xiping Liu
Resource Description Librarian

Ashley Lierman is a member of the ALA GLBT Round Table Web Committee.

Michelle Malizia attended the inaugural TLA Executive Leadership Immersion Institute.

Daniel Phibok is an associate professor of Digital Information Strategy and a co-evaluator for the National Center for Digital Information.

A gift to UH Libraries is a significant and meaningful way to honor or memorialize friends and loved ones. You can recognize joyous occasions, express gratitude, or commemorate lives that matter to you most – while also empowering education and making a meaningful contribution to your community.

To learn more about contributing to UH Libraries, contact Diane McMaster at 713.743.9109 or dmcmaster@uh.edu

Yes, I would like to

- Honor someone
- Make a gift

Enclosed is my gift of:
- $1000
- $500
- $200
- $100
- $75
- $50
- Other

Contribution made by:

- Name
- Billing Address
- City, State, Zip
- Home Phone
- Office Phone
- E-mail

- I wish to remain anonymous

- In Memory
- In Honor of
- Name
- On the occasion of
- A bookplate is requested

Payment info:

- Check payable to UH Libraries
- Debit/Credit Card

- Expiration Date
- Card #
- Signature