

Photo courtesy Guatemalan National Police Historical Archive.

The Call Number for Human Rights

“There’s benefit in this area of human rights, and there’s a benefit in our relations with other nations.”

Shortly before Vice Provost Fred Heath made his first trip to Rwanda’s Kigali Genocide Memorial (KGM) in 2008 to support a fledgling program at the University of Texas Libraries, a guard at the monument to the 1994 genocide was killed in a grenade attack on the facility.

The memorial is a symbol for those whose lives were ravaged by the human tragedy in Rwanda. But it also serves as the physical archive of survivor testimonies and a repository of evidence in the prosecutions against perpetrators of crimes against humanity.

An attack on the memorial is more than a symbolic gesture; it can partially erase a dark chapter in human history, effectively silencing the victims and absolving the guilty—preventing generations from learning from the failures of the past.

Against that backdrop, Heath visited Rwanda with a vision and access to the resources that could provide a modern solution to an age-old problem. He was there to spearhead an effort to digitize the country’s audiovisual, documentary and photographic archives related to the

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genocide. The project was intended to preserve survivor testimonies and other evidence, all of which would be made available to the world as a digital collection at the university and distributed through a website.

The Rwandan effort has since evolved into the Libraries' broader Human Rights Documentation Initiative, which has helped digitize and disseminate records of human rights crises across the globe, most recently Guatemala.

"It could be that things like the Kigali Genocide Memorial and its archives and other documentation centers could disappear in the future," says Heath, "but it makes less sense for them to disappear if digital instantiations of that documentation exist elsewhere."

The initial collaboration in Rwanda was developed among the University of Texas Libraries; the Bridgeway Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to human rights; Bridgeway partner Aegis Trust (UK); and the Rwandan government. It was facilitated in part by Libraries advisory council member Ed Nawotka and funded in part with a \$1.2 million grant from the Bridgeway Foundation.

By creating a replicative archive of the documents in digital form, the Libraries and its partners set out to ensure they survive if the original record—residing in its home country of Rwanda—was somehow lost or destroyed.

"It also helps survivors to heal as they listen and share stories—and it gives dignity to the more than 1 million Tutsi who perished during the genocide," says Yves Kamurinsi, a survivor and archive manager of the Kigali Genocide Memorial.

The Human Rights Documentation Initiative (HRDI) that has grown out of these efforts was born out of this previously unaddressed need. It was based on a creative scholarly structure that had proved to be a successful model for high-profile research ventures such as the Human Genome Project and the National Virtual Observatory. These were both collaborations built around research faculty, but existing primarily in a virtual space not defined by physical location.

Heath invokes computer scientist William Wulf's description of such organizations as "collaboratories," virtual laboratories

integrating communications technologies in the interest of collaborative research.

"At the time we were struggling with the idea of changing information-seeking behaviors, changing the way people view libraries," posits Heath. "Big libraries used to live as documentation centers for the human record at the end-product of research, at the end of that stream. So when the scholar had finished her document, her book, her article or her research, she would stake a claim out there in the universe, 'This is what I think,' and the library would place her claim, in book form, on its shelves; each book and each article is a stake in the ground by someone.

"People began looking beyond putting their stakes in the ground in other ways," says Heath, "making their discoveries elsewhere.

And rightly or wrongly, numbers of people started thinking about research libraries as somewhat outmoded, somewhat irrelevant."

The University of Texas Libraries, with its specialized structure and professionals, and its proximity to faculty and researchers—especially in the area of human rights—were uniquely suited as a space in which to organize such a collaboratory.

Scholars at the Libraries understood the idea of discovering data through metadata—that is, data about the data—and applying it to save these vital records for posterity.

"In our old world it was the catalog record that led us to a book or an index that led us to a journal or article, but it was all metadata," says Heath, "so we could scale that from millions of articles in the physical world to tens of millions of articles in the digital cloud."

A Modern Response to an Old Problem

Embarking on a project on the stage of one of the past century's worst genocides might seem incongruous with the archetypal view of librarians.

The dour, unfashionable, authoritarian figure wagging a disparaging finger is all-too-familiar visual vernacular. But it is out of place today—just as the print libraries of yesterday, with their miles of stacks, make room for a modern incarnation whose



Photo courtesy Guatemalan National Police Historical Archive.

currency is more likely to be the ethereal ones and zeroes that represent the global information exchange of the present. And as libraries have settled into a new paradigm, they've also discovered that their unique structure and specialized skill sets have opened them to new and unexpected opportunities.

The University of Texas Libraries have, after all, amassed a top-ranked collection of over 9 million volumes through 10 campus branches representing all fields of study at the university. It continually expands upon its significant holdings of electronic journals, databases, ebooks and other digital resources. Along with providing the space and technological infrastructure to support collaboration and scholarship at the university, these baseline resources have allowed for the formation of creative partnerships at a broader level.

Joined by project coordinator Christian Kelleher, archivist T-Kay Sangwand and other Libraries staff members, Heath made a series of trips to the Kigali Genocide Memorial (KGM) between 2008 and 2011 to assist in the identification, preservation and digitization of materials from the survivors of the Rwandan genocide.

"They had there the only copies of a number of survivor testimonies and other recordings that KGM had produced," remembers Kelleher. "The KGM staff, which itself includes a number of genocide survivors, realized the fragility of these records and were eager to see them protected as well as made available throughout Rwanda and the world."

After two years, the Libraries assisted the memorial in launching the Genocide Archive of Rwanda, a publically accessible website with hundreds of hours of survivor and rescuer testimony videos, perpetrator confessions and multimedia documenting the personal histories and atrocities of the genocide.

Libraries staffers worked closely with Kamuronsi, the survivor and archive manager of the KGM who has witnessed the impact of the partnership with HRDI.

"That the archive documents and provides access to the history of the genocide and how it happened is an important tool for Rwandans as it contributes greatly to efforts at reconciliation," says Kamuronsi.

A Leader in the Field

In the years since the collaboration in Rwanda began, HRDI has settled into its home at the Benson Latin American Collection in

Other Partnerships of the Human Rights Documentation Initiative:

- In 2009, HRDI partnered with the Free Burma Rangers—a multiethnic, multilingual humanitarian group that provides relief to refugees and documents the human rights conditions in Burma—to preserve its video documentation. The group engages in humanitarian work with a strong focus on the security of communities and individuals at risk in a region of ongoing conflict. As a result, the Libraries provide technical and preservation assistance, but do not assist in making the documents publicly accessible.
- In 2009, HRDI partnered with the Austin-based, non-profit organization Texas After Violence Project. TAVP documents the social impact of structural violence (i.e. incarceration, death penalty, institutional racism) and individual acts of violence in Texas to promote education and public dialogue around violence prevention. TAVP Videos feature a range of subjects including friends and family members of victims and executed people, as well as police officers, first responders, prosecutors, defense attorneys, prison employees, victim and defendant advocates and others involved in Texas' criminal justice system.
- In 2010, HRDI formed a partnership with the Brooklyn-based non-profit organization WITNESS, a human rights watchdog that trains grassroots human rights organizations in video production and video advocacy campaign building. WITNESS' current core partners include Habitat International Coalition, Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice, Egyptian Democracy Academy, End Child Prostitution and Trafficking – USA, and the Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights. WITNESS maintains a well-established, in-house archive, but does not have the technical infrastructure for its long-term preservation. HRDI serves as the audiovisual repository for WITNESS and will provide access to the materials both online and on-site.
- In 2010, archivist T-Kay Sangwand traveled to San Salvador, El Salvador to meet with Carlos Henríquez Consalvi, the Director of the Museo de la Palabra y la Imagen (MUPI) and founder of Radio Venceremos, the clandestine radio broadcast that operated as the voice of the opposition guerillas during the Salvadoran civil war in the 1980's. The result was a collaboration that digitizes and preserves the Radio Venceremos audio-cassette tapes. HRDI is also providing access to the "Tejiendo la Memoria" radio programs produced by the museum, which focus on an aspect of Salvadoran history and culture, using the extensive archival material available at MUPI.

Sid Richardson Hall on the east side of The University of Texas at Austin campus, while expanding its influence through projects representing human rights interests from across the globe.

From a logistical standpoint, placing the initiative in Sid Richardson Hall made perfect sense. It is situated among the reams, bound volumes and ephemera of the university's world-renowned Benson Collection, and comfortably near the esteemed Teresa Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies (LLILAS) and the heart of resources for the Center for Mexican American Studies. As a result, the initiative has associated with the university's prestigious centers for Latin American Studies and launched important initiatives in that region including its latest efforts in Guatemala.

The seed for that project was planted in 2008, when Karen Engle, director of the Law School's Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice, was approached by Guatemalan officials to consult on the unexpected discovery of a cache of incriminating government documents. The representatives were from the Archivo Histórico de la Policía Nacional de Guatemala (AHPN)—the Guatemalan National Police Archives.

Discovered by inspectors in July 2005 after an explosion at a military munitions dump, the archive is composed of some 80 million pages from 36 years of authoritarian rule in the Central American country. The official records of state-sponsored kidnappings, torture and assassination by the National Police are all part of the massive collection that previously occupied several buildings at the military complex. Prior to their discovery, police officials had denied their existence.

Having previously worked with the Libraries on the placement of another human rights archive, Engle understood the potential benefit for researchers, the global community and the students of the university if the Human Rights Documentation Initiative were involved.

"When I was first approached about collaborating with the Archive in early 2008, I knew that there was a possibility of moving forward because of the existence of HRDI—and I knew that we could not think of taking on such a project without our Libraries," says Engle.

"After our collaboration with the Benson Collection on the George Lister papers, I began to see the importance of using the archives of people involved with human rights to deepen our understanding of the history and development of the human rights movement, and also—through conferences and other programs—to use existing archives to facilitate the production of new knowledge."

Thus far HRDI has received about 12 million pages of digital documents for the archive, now publically searchable on the website hosted by the University of Texas Libraries. Documents will be added as they are digitized until the corpus is complete.

"Our collaboration with UT Libraries and LLILAS on the Guatemala project is one of the best collaborations in which I have ever been involved, in part because we do not always agree," says Engle. "We are willing to share our differences, though, and truly listen to each other. And when we move forward, we have done so only after careful deliberation for which we and the project are much stronger."



Dr. Fred Heath meeting with representatives from AHPN.

Heath views the collaboration between the Libraries—with its staff and technology infrastructure—and university faculty—with its need for local resources—as prime grounds for mutual benefit.

"In terms of the Guatemalan project, we had a faculty that instantly saw this as a public good. We weren't advertising to a market beyond our campus; it was immediately embraced as a priority here."

At a time when budgets are tight, the relative expansion of the initiative is impressive.

"There's benefit in this area of human rights, and there's a benefit in our relations with other nations," Heath says.

"We're crafting a mosaic of collaborators who can scale to meet the challenges in the field of human rights. And now it's absolutely without question that colloquy on human rights in New York or on the West Coast or globally would involve our colleagues at the Center for Research Libraries, Columbia, and Duke University, among others—and The University of Texas at Austin."

Benson, LLILAS Pilot Joint Endeavor

The Benson Latin American Collection (BLAC) and the Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies (LLILAS) recently aligned their efforts in an inventive approach to reaching common goals.

Last September, the two distinguished Latin American keystone institutions at The University of Texas at Austin began a process to integrate their respective staffs and missions in a three-year plan that placed them under a sole directorship.

Dr. Charles Hale, who has served as director of LLILAS since 2009, helms the nascent LLILAS-BLAC effort to unite the institutions' student programs, research and scholarly resources related to Latin America. Dr. Juliet Hooker remained associate director of LLILAS, and Dr. David Block took over as the associate director of BLAC.

"Especially in an era of budget scarcity, it is exciting and promising for a university-based initiative to enter a phase of expansion and transformation, raising two venerable institutions to new heights of excellence, while at the same time conserving resources, and taking full advantage of untapped synergies," Hale says of the collaboration's promise.

The collaboration is focused on four key priorities of current university-wide directives on enhancing the benefits of higher education over the course of its pilot period.

Hemispheric collaboration

As practices that emphasize horizontal and reciprocal relationships with Latin American colleagues and peer institutions continue to become the prevailing standard, LLILAS-BLAC is leading this collaborative reinvention in the field of Latin American studies.

Scholarly integration

BLAC scholarly resources are being developed through increased dialogue with faculty, graduate students and visiting scholars—the principal users of the collection—and faculty consultations are

being employed to enhance and expand the scholarly program at the BLAC.

Public engagement

LLILAS-BLAC is working to increase its presence to sectors beyond the university by providing educational opportunities, outreach programs and awareness of its work and resources to the larger public.

Development

Through a focused effort based on shared goals, this combined site of Latin American studies has invested in human capital to attract new resources of support for the programs and collections benefitting the global study of Latin America.

"We're enthusiastic about the prospects for this collective enterprise," says University of Texas Libraries Director Dr. Fred Heath. "By closely aligning academic teaching and scholarly research with the resources of the university's collections, we think we've hit upon a novel structure that is informed by the strategic goals of the university."

A program review by the College of Liberal Arts and the University of Texas Libraries at the close of the pilot period will determine the future course of the venture.

"The pilot between LLILAS and BLAC is a natural and innovative way to further strengthen our premier Latin American studies initiatives offered by the university," says Dr. Randy L. Diehl, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. "I expect to see many positive outcomes in the area of scholarly collaboration and public engagement. I'm excited to see the future possibilities unfold."



Dr. Charles Hale

Centennial of Battle Hall Features Celebration and Exhibit

Battle Hall, a building that was part of the original Forty Acres at The University of Texas at Austin, marked the 100th anniversary of its completion last November, and the School of Architecture, the Texas Exes and the University of Texas Libraries hosted a Centennial Celebration to mark the occasion.

Renowned architect and W.L. Moody, Jr. Centennial Professor in Architecture Lawrence W. Speck provided opening remarks in Jessen Auditorium in Homer Rainey Hall before attendees shuffled to Battle Hall for an open house and reception. The evening featured self-guided tours of the building, light refreshments and a cake-cutting to commemorate the anniversary.

Designed by newly appointed University Architect Cass Gilbert in 1910, Battle Hall was completed in 1911 for approximately \$280,000. Beyond serving as the university's first independent library building (later known as "the Old Library"), it was also the first home to the new College of Fine Arts (1938) and later to the new Barker Texas History Center (1950), bringing together for the first time the University Library's archives and rare books collections. In 1973, when the Barker Center vacated the building, it became home to the Architecture Library and was renamed for former university president Professor William J. Battle.

The building was the first designed for the campus in the now-familiar Spanish-Mediterranean Revival style, and in 1970 it was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In 2007, Battle Hall was listed by the American Institute of Architects as one of the top 150 architecture projects in the organization's "America's Favorite Architecture" poll.

Today, Battle Hall is home to the Architecture & Planning Library, the Alexander Architectural Archive and the School of Architecture's Center for American Architecture and Design.

"A century ago, Battle Hall opened its doors as the first independent library building on the campus of The University of Texas at Austin, and since then it has provided the space and resources



The cake version of Battle Hall.

needed to fuel creativity, research and innovation at the university and beyond," said Libraries director Fred Heath on the occasion. "With the past as prologue, this grand historic building and its service to the students, faculty, researchers and appreciative public will continue for another century and more."

The Centennial Celebration received a retrospective through an exhibit "Our Landmark Library: Battle Hall at 100," featured in the Architecture & Planning Library's reading room. The exhibit revisits the history of the university's first dedicated library space on campus through imagery drawn from sources including the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, the Alexander Architecture Archive, the New-York Historical Society and the Library of Congress. An accompanying online exhibit offers additional images and information conveying the story of the building from conception to completion.

The exhibit is on display in the Architecture & Planning Library in Battle Hall through May 2012.

Primeros Libros Gets Boost from Brown

A project aimed at building a major research tool for the global study of Latin America at The University of Texas at Austin welcomed a significant new academic partner last fall.

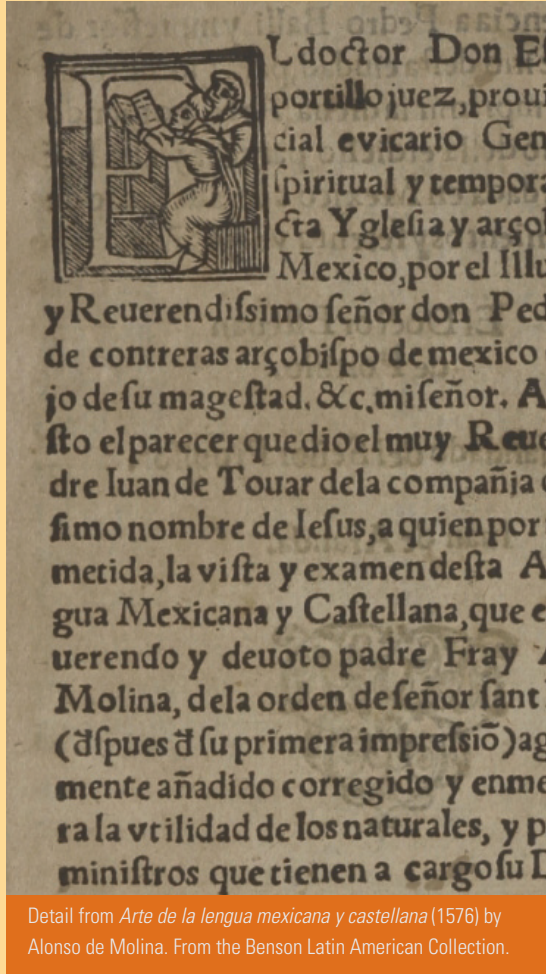
The John Carter Brown Library (JCBL) at Brown University joined the *Primeros Libros* project, which strives to build and preserve a digital collection of the first books (*primeros libros*) printed in Mexico before 1601.

Primeros Libros was initiated in 2010 by a consortium of institutions led by the Benson Latin American Collection at The University of Texas at Austin, Biblioteca Histórica José María Lafragua at the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla and the Cushing Memorial Library and Archives at Texas A&M University.

The monographs in the collection represent the first printing in the New World, and are primary sources for the research of cultural history, linguistics, religious studies and related fields. Of the 220 distinct works believed to have been produced in Mexico before 1601, approximately 135 surviving titles are held in institutions around the world.

The project seeks to acquire at least one example of each title, while also digitizing as many duplicate copies of these works as are available. Duplicates facilitate scholarly inquiry, since marginalia, typographical variants, ownership marks and other copy-specific attributes are often critical for interpretation by scholars.

At least 369 surviving *primeros libros* are believed to be in existence. However, in the course of the project, previously unknown holdings have been revealed in the collections of project participants.



The prestigious John Carter Brown Library brings more than 70 additional exemplars to the *primeros libros* collection, the largest contribution of any member institution. The 10 other project participants include Biblioteca Palafoxiana, Universidad de las Américas Puebla, and Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí in Mexico; the Biblioteca Histórica Marqués de Valdecilla at the University Complutense in Madrid, and the Biblioteca Nacional de Chile.

Each institution participating in the project receives the complete set of digitized images and their derivatives from the collections of all the project partners for use locally by researchers and scholars. The project thus makes a unique and significant contribution to the repatriation of Mexican patrimony by returning through digital surrogates material that has been absent in some cases for hundreds of years.

The project website (<http://primeroslibros.org>) – which was built and is hosted by the University of Texas Libraries and the Texas

Digital Library – holds digital copies of these works in a variety of formats (e.g., JPG, JPE, PDF). It also offers book viewers, navigational aids and metadata describing the materials. The digital collections of *Primeros Libros* are made freely available to the world.

Literary Longhorns Launch

In February, the University of Texas Libraries launched a new initiative called Literary Longhorns. The initiative recognizes donors who have given or pledged \$25,000 or more to the University of Texas Libraries.

A select group of alumni, donors and friends were invited to the launch reception at the home of Libraries advisory council member Ted Whatley and his wife Melba.

The reception featured presentations from Dr. David Hunter on the Fine Arts Library and its Historical Music Recordings Collection, and from Adán Benavides on the Benson Latin American Collection.

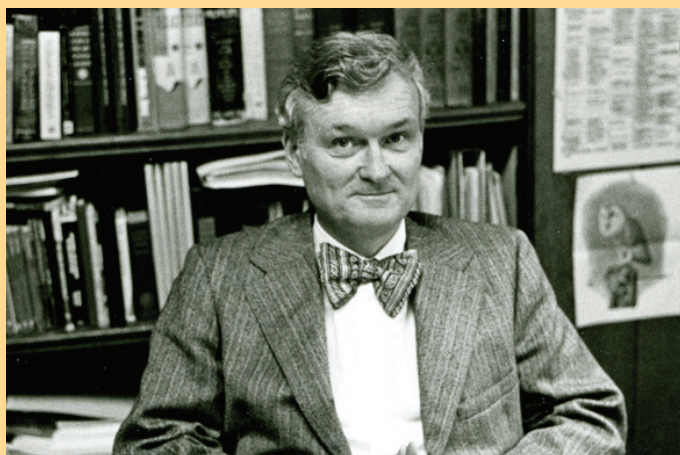
In addition, guests were treated to a special presentation by Libraries advisory council member and Arts Editor for the Austin Chronicle Robert Faires on the making of his one-man show, Henry V.



It was a special evening for guests to learn more about the University of Texas Libraries collections and ideas for future acquisitions of unique and rare items.

- Gregory Perrin

Recent bequests support Libraries



The Libraries are the beneficiary of two recent generous bequests, one from a UT emeritus professor, the other from a lifetime book collector.

The estate of **D. Blakely "Blake" Alexander**, who passed away this past December, will establish an endowment to benefit the archive that bears his name in the Architecture and Planning Library. Blake was a champion in acquiring the special and unique books and archives that the School now enjoys at its fingertips. The Alexander Architectural Archive grew out of his personal collection and stewardship. As in life, Blake's generous endowment assures his desire to provide students and faculty an enduring and quality experience at



the library and archives.

Frances Jane Leathers Holsey, who passed away in October 2011, established her bequest to the Libraries as a supplement to her initial donation of more than 400 books from her personal library. The bequest will be used to support the Frances Jane Leathers Holsey Literary Collection.

We are most grateful for Professor Alexander's and Mrs. Holsey's recognition of the significant impact their bequests to the Libraries could make.

- Linda Abbey

First Adopter

Advisory Council member Ken Capps explains why he became the first person to participate in the Libraries new Adopt-A-Book program.

What made you become interested in supporting UT Libraries?

I have a passion for all things UT and also for the importance of the Library System as being the epicenter for so much of campus and the community. It's not just for students—I want to help spread the word about Texas Exes and anyone who loves books and UT can support our libraries and have access to their treasures.

What is your favorite book?

It is definitely *Goodbye To A River* by John Graves—that's why I selected it. It's a story of Texas, our land, our rivers, and our heritage. I so enjoy being outdoors in Texas—from San Jacinto to Big Bend and all parts in between. We ARE a whole other country!

What do you enjoy most about Goodbye to a River?

A man and his dog take a trip down the Brazos River when it was still relatively wild and certainly undeveloped. How great is that? And the book is widely credited for keeping the State from damming up more

of the Brazos back in the 1960's. Thank you John Graves!

A good friend of mine—Mike Renfro, also a Texas grad—and I, have been canoeing the Brazos River for more than 25 years. We love to see a curve change, an eddy appear, just like the ebb and flow of life. Sometimes you have a great current, sometimes you get stuck. Just like life.

Anything else you'd like to say about your adoption of Goodbye to a River?

I truly felt it was important that the very first book adopted for our great library system honor a Texas author and a Texas story.

Adopt-a-Book gifts are used to purchase new materials and to preserve, repair and provide greater access to the millions of items already part of the UT Libraries collection. Donors to the program have their name permanently recognized in the online catalog record of their selection.

- Eva McQuade

Food for the Mind

Last fall, the Libraries launched a lunchtime lecture series featuring research presentations by faculty from across the university... and free pizza.

"Research + Pizza" was created by Science Instruction Librarian Roxanne Bogucka to provide faculty and researchers at The University of Texas at Austin a means through which to share the innovative and important work occurring around campus with a larger audience.

The program kicked off in September with speaker Dr. Raj Raghunathan – UT Marketing professor and blogger for Psychology Today – who provided insights on willpower, success and happiness, just as the semester got underway and students began to navigate a transition to college life.

Subsequent installations have featured faculty from a variety of fields. Director of the School of Architecture's state-of-the-art Facade Thermal Lab Matt Fajkus spoke about sustainable architectural design strategies, focusing on building envelopes and efficient facade

systems. Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology James Pennebaker entertained with a discussion about how the words we use can expose hidden meanings about our feelings, intentions and

personality, and reflecting on his critically-praise book *The Secret Life of Pronouns: What Our Words Say About Us*. Dr. Linda Yoder from the School of Nursing talked about her studies the medical care of injured soldiers and presents preliminary findings on the quality of life of service members treated in a military burn unit at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The program wrapped its first season with a Lyn Koenning from Theater & Dance remarking on storytelling through

song and dance followed by a musical performance by her students on the glass bridge in the Fine Arts Library.

"Research + Pizza" is free and open to the public, with pizza generously provided to attendees by local sponsor Austin's Pizza. Most programs occur in the Perry-Castañeda Library and have been recorded for potential future podcast.



James Pennebaker speaking on the psychology of words.

Fullman Brings Long String Instrument to Battle Hall

On October 20th, as part of the Music in Architecture / Architecture in Music Symposium hosted by the Center for American Architecture and Design, the College of Fine Arts and the Sarah and Ernest Butler School of Music, composer Ellen Fullman premiered a new composition titled “Tracings” in the Battle Hall on the campus of The University of Texas at Austin. The performance featured Fullman both solo and with the Austin New Music Coop.

The architecture of the historic building provided an extraordinary acoustic environment for Fullman’s unique instrument. “Tracings” was composed specifically for Battle Hall, repurposing ratios found in the design of the building to produce justly tuned musical intervals.

Joining Fullman for the performance were NMC musicians Brent Farris (contrabass), Nick Hennies (percussion), Andrew Stoltz (overtone



Ellen Fullman performing at Battle Hall.

guitar designed by Arnold Dreyblatt) and Travis Weller (playing his custom string instrument “The Owl”).

Another Successful Year for SSB

The Libraries’ insanely successful Science Study Break program opened a new season last September with a special installment featuring comics writer Jim Ottaviani who was visiting campus to discuss his graphic novel biography *Feynman* on the life of Nobel laureate and nuclear physicist Richard Feynman. Close to 300 attendees packed a lecture room in Welch Hall and were treated to a highly entertaining presentation where comic books and physics collided.

In October, Professor Emeritus Claud Bramblett of Anthropology dissected scenes from *Project Nim* and *Planet of the Apes* movies to see how they measure up to the actual biology and social life of apes. Bramblett has authored a corpus on primatology, including the book *Patterns of Primate Behavior*.

The concluding Science Study Break of the fall semester featured a tag team takedown of the methods and madness in two contemporary television productions following the exploits of master sleuth Sherlock Holmes. Dr. Jim Bryant (Department of Biology) and Dr. Sam Gosling (Department of Psychology) illuminated the immortalized detective’s use of statistics, observations of personality and deductive prowess in the BBC’s *Sherlock* and Granada Television’s *Sherlock Holmes*.

Dr. Andreana Haley (Psychology) kicked off the spring semester using scenes from *Iris*, *The Walking Dead*, *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*



Sam Gosling and Jim Bryant investigate Sherlock Holmes.

and other shows to discuss how Alzheimer’s affects the brain, memory and personality. Haley was bombarded with questions throughout the program by a heavily engaged crowd.

Science Study Break closed out another year sharing space with a noteworthy public health conference taking place at the university. In conjunction with the 2012 Disease Detective public health conference, Dr. Richard Taylor (Biology) looked at public health and infectious disease as depicted in scenes from films and television shows like *12 Monkeys*, *The Walking Dead*, *Numb3rs* and *Contagion*.

Science Study Break is a speaker series where pop culture and the academy collide as experts evaluate presentations of science in popular culture. Science Study Break is supported by the University Federal Credit Union.



Ryan Steans Recommends

For us comics readers, we're a few decades down the road from fearing our medium will be thrown in the garbage by mom while we're off at school, but it doesn't mean comics have achieved much in the way of mainstream love outside of masked heroes on the movie screen. Here are some comics that might be of interest to show you what comics have been doing since you last put down an issue of Archie and Jughead.

Understanding Comics / By Scott McCloud

One of the more interesting comic books of the last 20 years is Scott McCloud's book about logic, art form and design of comics and how they work, written in comic form. McCloud dissects the parts of a narrative told via sequential art, any story that can be told by placing two images in sequence, and then examines all the leaps our minds make intuitively between the two images, be it through exploration of the artistic style, compression or expansion of time between panels, etc... The book actually predates modern web concepts of web design, iconography on our phones, etc... but McCloud's comic should be assigned reading for anyone seeking to convey a story or (or suggest what an icon will do on your iPhone) through imagery.

Feynman / Written by Jim Ottiavani / Illustrated by Lelad Myrick

The book is worth a mention not just because it was written by a librarian (Jim works at the University of Michigan), but because it demonstrates how a comic book can work as biography, even of one of the most brilliant minds of the 20th Century. Ottiavani manages to not only tell an engaging story of the life of an extraordinary (and often eccentric) mind, but also demonstrates the principles of physics Feynman spent his life trying to share with the world. The art style tilts far more toward cartoony than illustrative, which serves to keep

the story conversational, never intimidating, and to convey both character and the physics as purely as possible. Feynman was at the heart of changes in history, in physics, in science education and other surprising places, and this graphic novel combines the words of Feynman with matter written about him, bringing it all together into one highly readable package.

Fun Home / By Alison Bechdel

Bechdel is a cartoonist by background, traditionally working in shorter strips. Here, she takes up her pen to create a graphic novel memoir of her life growing up in a funeral home (the "fun" home of the title), pursuing through memory and anecdotes a father with whom, years after his passing, she retains a complicated relationship. Bechdel relates the path to the realization of her own homosexuality, and her early years of exploration while coming to terms with her father's own closeted homosexuality cost the family as well as himself. Rather than a raw outpouring, Bechdel's storytelling is thoughtful, literate and beautifully illustrated, conveying the emotion where necessary though cartoonish iconography and carefully managing and staging difficult scenes.

We3 / Written by Grant Morrison / Art by Frank Quitely

On one level a very strange science fiction story about lab animals used as cybernetic weapons by the military who escape to disastrous results, the comic is, like so much good sci-fi, a reflection and commentary upon "us". While at times graphic and absurd, the book explores the innate natures of the animals we live among, versus our own needs which drive often cruel and consequence-free decisions. Until, of course, something goes wrong, as it must in allegorical science-fiction. In what equates to roughly a Graphic Novella, *We3* demonstrates the unique collaboration between two of the most popular and technically savvy creators working in the medium.

Kingdom Come / Written by Mark Waid / Art by Alex Ross

Visually one of the most arresting comic books you're likely to pick up, Alex Ross's Rockwell-esque watercolor illustrations of some of the world's most familiar superheroes helped to define the approach to superheroes as mythic archetypes in the 2000's. Mark Waid and Alex Ross's story takes place in the near future where Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman have abandoned their roles and the world has taken a turn for the worst in their absence as a new generation of costumed folk have filled their place, but spend more time causing damage than saving the day. A parable for use of power in the modern world, *Kingdom Come* is also superheroes for the older reader in a story bigger than any of the superhero movies of the last 15 years.

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The University of Texas at Austin



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From the Director

University of Texas President Bill Powers recently convened a committee of business leaders from leading national firms to review business practices at the Forty Acres. Applying the best business strategies from the private sector would help the university reduce costs and improve efficiency. The corporate

sector initiative follows and complements previous work done by others such as the Commission of 125 and the Task Force on Undergraduate Graduation Rates.

By now, of course, we are all too familiar with fiscal challenges confronting the country and constraining the budgets of state agencies and institutions. As President Powers notes, however, efforts to increase efficiency are an ongoing priority to be pursued “even in the best of times.” At the University of Texas Libraries, we have been in an elevated mode of planning and efficiency assessment for past two years as we work to embed continuous planning into the core operations of the Libraries. A permanent task force drawn from staff across our libraries is focused on monitoring the evolving challenges facing our campus and libraries, and developing plans for effective and efficient strategies to meet those challenges. Our priorities and plans are reviewed with the Libraries Advisory Council, which includes among its membership individuals from a variety of successful businesses. The most recent briefing of the Council occurred in late April.

Cost-effectiveness and clear strategic planning play significant roles in fostering and sustaining the level of excellence the University expects from its libraries – from the outstanding research collections built over more than a century of sustained effort to the sort of cutting edge digital initiatives you will read about in this newsletter. In fact, projects such as the Human Rights Digitization Initiative (HRDI) and Los Primeros Libros de las Américas demonstrate that in the modern research university library, print and digital collections are inextricably linked as components of a comprehensive multi-faceted research collection.

And as the collaborative enterprise between the Benson Latin American Collection and the Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies closes in on the first quarter of its pilot period, we’re finding validation in novel approaches for added efficiency and effectiveness across the Libraries.

The bottom line, now as always, remains our core commitment to building the research collections and the related professional services necessary to serve the University’s mission of teaching, learning, and research in service to society.

I hope you enjoy reading the stories selected for this newsletter.