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# The Flyleaf

RICE UNIVERSITY  
JUN 6 2001  
LIBRARY  
Spring 2001

Friends of Fondren Library

Vol. 51, No. 2



President Gillis Announces  
Approval of New Library Design  
by Rice Board of Trustees

# A Letter to the Friends

Dear Friends of Fondren Library:

It has been an exciting year for the Friends and for Fondren Library! In this issue, you will have the opportunity to read all about the tremendous plans for the new library at Rice University. You will also have the chance to read about Mary Bixby, Director of Development for the Library, who has the challenging job of raising funds to support this very important project.

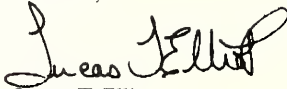
As you know, our annual Homecoming Brunch was held this past November. We honored Dr. David L. Minter for his commitment to the Friends and to Fondren Library. You can read all about this wonderful morning in this issue of *The Flyleaf*. Many thanks to John Brice who chaired this special event.

Our February event was the Rice Authors Reception, which honored over fifty authors this year. Four fantastic panelists were led by moderator Bob Patten in an interesting discussion of what influenced each to write. Special thanks to Alan Bath for his hard work chairing this wonderful event.

It was good to see you at the Friends of Fondren Library Gala. We were so pleased to honor the Fondren family and the Fondren Foundation who have contributed significantly to Rice University's Fondren Library. You will have the chance to read all about this spectacular evening in the upcoming issue of *The Flyleaf*.

The Friends of Fondren Library Annual Meeting and Dinner is right around the corner. Chuck Henry will be our keynote speaker and will discuss "Transforming Space: The New Library at Rice University." I look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,



Lucas T. Elliot  
President

## Fondren Library

Founded under the charter of the university dated May 18, 1891, the library was established in 1913. Its present building was dedicated November 4, 1949, and rededicated in 1969 after a substantial addition, both made possible by gifts of Ella F. Fondren, her children, and the Fondren Foundation and Trust as a tribute to Walter William Fondren. The library celebrated its half-millionth volume in 1965 and its one-millionth volume on April 22, 1979.

## The Friends

The Friends of Fondren Library was founded in 1950 as an association of library supporters interested in increasing and making better known the resources of Fondren Library at Rice University. The Friends, through members' contributions and sponsorship of a program of memorials and honor gifts, secure gifts and bequests, and provide funds for the purchase of rare books, manuscripts, and other materials that are needed to support teaching and research at the university.

## The Flyleaf

Founded October, 1950, *The Flyleaf* is published by the Friends of Fondren Library, MS - 245, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, Texas 77251-1892. *The Flyleaf* is a record of the activities of the Friends, the Fondren Library, and the generosity of the library's supporters. *The Flyleaf* is published three times in each academic calendar year and is also available online at the Friends of Fondren web site at <http://ruf.rice.edu/~fofl/>.



## The Flyleaf

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# Not Just Any Building

BY D. KENT ANDERSON, CHAIRMAN  
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE  
RICE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES



*Architect's model of the new library in its setting on the Rice Campus*

In 1998 the Board of Trustees of Rice University and President Malcolm Gillis set their sights on the goal of resolving the severe shortage of space for the collection in the existing Fondren Library and the need to use innovations in information technology to strategically place Rice in the leadership role expected of a world-class research institution.

The elevation of this goal as

a priority for Rice University set the university on a journey of assessment, introspection, and discovery that we had not fully anticipated. This journey has carried us through the last two years and has included an extensive programming process, several campus-planning initiatives and a variety of design options by two different design architects. Each step has informed and educated the project team

and the university community about our aspirations, our environment and our values. Each step has "raised the bar" of excellence for this facility and clearly informed us all that for this new iteration of the library, "good" would not be good enough for Rice. So it has become clear that the new library would not be just any building.

The vision of the new library was clearly defined in the earli-

est stages of the programming process. Programming is sometimes referred to as the phase of design when each space is identified and sized. In many cases, as in the library project, programming is a time to develop a vision for the building including understanding how the building is to be used, what functions it will serve and how it might grow and change. The most important aspect of the vision, as defined by Dr. Charles Henry, is how the Fondren Library will fit into and support the mission of the university. Dr. Henry's vision is one that reflects on the traditional role of the library while addressing the possibilities and needs of the future. Intrinsic to that vision is to make the library the first great research library of the new century. A team led by Geoffrey Freeman of Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott (SBRA), the foremost academic library designers in the world, listened well and, in May 1999, published a program and master planning study that defined this vision. Central to this definition is the capacity to expand the current collection on campus while creating a world-class service-oriented electronic resource center and creating a space that supports the interdisciplinary exchange so important to Rice.

The first attempt to define how the building would take shape was the job of Robert Venturi, one of the finest architects of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Mr. Venturi fully respected the academic mission of Rice. He also accepted the constraints of the project. These constraints included budget, location, and the preservation and renovation of the original Fondren Library building. Mr. Venturi enthusiastically took on this challenge developing an architectural argument and interpretation that proposed a transitional and flexible "loft" structure attached to the original Fondren building. In the Venturi design, the appearance of the original structure was to have been modified, not through changes to the exterior but by a change in the building's context by adding a freestanding wall in front of the existing library addressing the academic quadrangle. This wall would create a context that would make the existing building visually less important. A glass wall faced the more informal quadrangle to the west behind which flexible space would continuously accommodate the changing needs of the library.

The Board of Trustees did not approve the Venturi design. Finalized in the summer of 2000, the design effectively

challenged the board's understanding of the Rice campus environment and raised many more questions than could be answered within the Venturi approach. The board also came to understand, through this process with Robert Venturi, that the quality of design of the library was extraordinarily important, not only because of its prominent location on the academic quadrangle but also because of what the building was to accomplish. If this library were truly to carry Rice into the next century as a resource, the building must also carry the university architecturally into the next century; no small challenge.

Recognition of the large scale of the Venturi design, the incredible difficulty of dealing with the existing building and the need to look again at the original Cram master plan for guidance, led the board to initiate a Pre-Design study by Michael Wilford. Michael Wilford, an architect of international regard from the United Kingdom, has an intimate understanding of the Rice Campus and the academic quadrangle in particular. Mr. Wilford taught at Rice in the School of Architecture in the eighties and designed Anderson Hall with his partner, Sir James Stirling. Mr. Wilford has continued to prac-

tice architecture at an internationally recognized level since Sir James Stirling's death in 1992.

The Pre-Design study began in October of 2000 and required approximately three months to complete. The process developed by Michael Wilford has been an inclusive one that has required discussion and review with the Buildings and Grounds Design Subcommittee every few weeks. The study revisited the Cram Master Plan first in an attempt to understand how a facility placed in this location might address the intentions of the master plan. From that analysis, Mr. Wilford developed five options for the diagrammatic development of the project, always keeping the programmatic vision a priority. Through extensive work with the board, the library representatives and the project team, the options were narrowed and a new budget defined. Principles for the development of the final scheme included respecting the existing scale of the campus using the "slip bar" design embraced by the earliest Cram buildings; respecting the architectural style of the academic quadrangle through contextually sensitive design; allowing the architecture at the western quadrangle to address the need for transition; and, finally, to maintaining the programmatic goals by creating a multilevel "immersion concourse".

The massing "diagram" developed through this Pre-Design

effort calls for the replacement of the existing Fondren Library with a new facility of nearly 300,000 SF that will have two stories of construction underground. Two "slip bars", approximately the same scale as

building on either side without being pushed outside the quad area. The western portion of the building will include an ellipse of flexible space open to two floors below grade and four floors above. This ellipse, placed directly on the intersection of two major axes will be the source of the functional transition of the program, the spatial transition of the architecture and the plan transition anticipated by Cram. A reading room floating above the oaks, the highest point on campus punctuates this intersection. The facility will incorporate ten years of growth of the collection as well as expanded seating and study areas.

Most importantly, the proposed diagrammatic concept is a physical manifestation of the library program. The Pre-Design incorporates the vision of the "new" library of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, adopts the "idea" for a flexible research and learning laboratory and embraces the "multi-disciplined and collaborative educational approach" of Rice University.

It was determined by the Board of Trustees in March 2001, that development of this Pre-Design concept will address the goals of the board, the president and the university community, and so Michael Wilford, Geoffrey Freeman, Dr. Charles Henry and the project team will continue this amazing journey to develop a design for the new library; a project that will be more than just any building.

*If this library were truly to carry Rice into the next century as a resource, the building must also carry the university architecturally into the next century; no small challenge.*

those forming Sewall Hall and the Physics Building, will be set at the end academic quadrangle. The cloister at that end will be newly aligned, eliminating the existing bend. The overall building will be narrower allowing the original cloisters of oak trees along the western quad to be replanted and reinforced. This will also allow pedestrians to "slip" past the

# Friends of Fondren Honor David Minter at Annual FOFL/REA Homecoming Brunch

BY ELIZABETH W. KIDD



*David Minter, Norma Lee Minter, and Ken Minter*

The Friends of Fondren Library and The Rice Engineering Alumni Homecoming Brunch on November 4, 2000, was, as these brunches tend to be, a very popular and convivial event. This year the brunch was ably chaired by John Brice. The Friends of Fondren Library honored David L. Minter, Ph.D., as the 2000 Recipient of the Friends of Fondren Library Award. The award is presented each year to one of those among us who has made a special contribution to the library, and David Minter, the Bruce and Elizabeth Dunlevie Professor of English, was indeed a deserving honoree.

Albert Kidd, a Rice trustee emeritus, gave the presentation of the award. He detailed some of Minter's accomplishments, including his internationally recognized

scholarship in American Literature, his writings on William Faulkner, his often awarded teaching, and his work in university administration as Dean of Emory College and Vice President for Arts and Sciences at Emory University and as Interim Provost at Rice.

More relevant to the Friends' Award, Kidd continued, was Minter's service in 1995 and 1996 as Interim Provost and University Librarian. He has also served on the Library Planning Committee, as a board member of the Friends of Fondren since 1997, and has

generally played an important role in developing the vision for Fondren Library in the twenty-first century. As Kidd illustrated in an anecdote of a conversation with him, it is a role about



*Lucas Elliot, David Minter, and Albert Kidd*

which Minter has felt passionately.

Dr. Minter's response was brief but eloquent as he spoke of the essential quality of the library in the life of the university. He also spoke with warmth of his year as Interim Librarian and the great respect he developed in that time for those on the staff of Fondren Library. Finally, he expressed his enthusiasm over the new plans



*Charles Maynard, Charlie and Melissa Maynard*

for the library and his confidence in the future of the library under the leadership of Chuck Henry.

As the many attending exited the Kyle Morrow Room, where the awards are always presented, much of the conversation was about the new library at Rice. That excitement and enthusiasm was perhaps the greatest tribute to David Minter.



*Janet and Mike Kelley*

*REA President Jan Stavimoha with 2000 award recipients Fred G. Russell, who received the Outstanding Engineering Alumnus Award, and Lawrence A. Ciscorn, Ph.D., who received the Outstanding Young Engineering Alumnus Award*





## PROFILE SERIES

# There's Something About Mary

BY ELIZABETH W. KIDD

*[Mary Bixby, the Director of Development - Library, now in part responsible for raising the funds to build the new, extraordinary library building, came to Rice in 1996 as executive director of the Friends of Fondren Library, after the retirement of the able and dedicated Betty Charles. Now the work of the Friends is primarily shepherded (and efficiently and energetically so) by Mary Pat Julian, as Associate Director. The following is a brief profile of Mary B.]*



Mary Bixby

While others might have had their fill of libraries after living in one, the experience only kindled in Mary a love of libraries, and the books that fill them. It is hard to find a book or author Mary has not read, or at least read about. It was that great respect for libraries that so communicated to the search committee, but other expertise was clear from the recommendations that came

from Pennzoil, where Mary was at that time working as librarian. In fact, she had received the President's Award at Pennzoil only the year before—an accolade that we learned of only after calling her references, not from Mary herself.

There are, of course, many other stories in Mary's life. An episode of one of those stories occurred only weeks ago when Mary and her son David traveled for three days from San Francisco to Seattle on the USS David R. Ray, a Navy destroyer. The USS Ray is named in honor of Mary's brother, known as Bobby, who received posthumous

*continued on page 15*

**D**uring Mary Bixby's first interview as a candidate for the position of executive director of Friends of Fondren Library, I was certain many of us on the search committee were congratulating ourselves on our good fortune in finding someone so well qualified to fill the position. After the second interview the congratulations were shared all around. Mary was, in fact, uniquely qualified for the position. She had earned a master's degree in library science, as had other candidates; she had worked in development, as had other candidates; but only Mary

was reared in a library by a librarian.

Mary grew up in the small town of McMinnville, Tennessee. The gentleman who donated the funds to build the library building in McMinnville had specified that the librarian must live in the apartment that was in the same building as the library. Thus, when Mary's mother accepted the job, her family moved into the library, and Mary and her brother spent many of their most formative years—age seven to fourteen for Mary—living there. Though they enjoyed full access to the library at all hours, Mary tells that her mother made them use flashlights at night to avoid the resentment of other avid readers in the community.

# 2000 Rice Authors Reception

BY ALAN HARRIS BATH

On February 11, 2001, the Friends of Fondren ushered in the Millennium by honoring a bumper crop of over 50 Rice authors. Dean James, Linda McNeil, Virginia Moyer, and Stephen Zeff—the four panelists representing this year’s authors—reflected the wide diversity of the Rice community. Their works covered a range of interests from murder mysteries, through current problems in education and medicine, to biography. Friends of Fondren President, Lucas Elliot, welcomed the attendees and introduced Professor Robert L. Patten, who served as moderator for the program.

First speaker, Dean James, received his Ph.D. in Medieval History from Rice in 1986 then turned his talents to the world of mystery, becoming manager of Houston’s nationally recognized bookstore, Murder by the



Dean James, Ginny Moyer, Bob Patten, Linda McNeil, and Stephen Zeff

Book, as well as a mystery novelist in his own right. His first book, *Cruel as the Grave* is soon to be followed by another, *Closer to the Bones*, due out in early summer. James recounted that his childhood interest in mysteries, such as the Hardy Boys series, coupled with his studies of the puzzles of history, led him into the mystery writing field. He characterized his style as the old-fashioned Agatha Christie school and commented that he enjoyed this type of writing because “your imagination can take you where your feet can not.”

Rice Education Professor and Co-Director of the Center for Education Linda McNeil, spoke of her work as a school curriculum theorist and analyst of school structure and reform. Her discussion of her most recent book, *Contradictions of School Reform: Educational Costs of Standardized Testing*, which attracted national attention both in the media and among politicians, led to a spirited question and answer session



Betty Wood and Bridget Jensen



Alan Bath and Lucas Elliot

on how her studies related to local schools. Her concerns center around evidence from her research that indicates that standardized teaching, testing, and holding educators accountable for results, causes a “watering down” of the curriculum and a “de-skilling” of teachers.

Virginia Moyer, M.D., received her B.A. from Rice in 1974 and is Associate Professor of Pediatrics in the University of Texas Medical School at Houston. She is recognized for her work as Editor-in-Chief and contributor to *Evidence-Based Pediatrics and Child Health*. In her discussion of the book, Dr. Moyer pointed out that it is impossible to remain current with the explosion of information becoming available to doctors on a daily basis. Material taught in medical school is almost immediately obsolete. Electronic databases have helped, but assistance is still required in locating the specific information needed and, once found, in its evaluation. *Evidence-Based Pediatrics* is an attempt by recognized experts in their fields to help other physicians find and use the latest information and to apply it in the care of their patients.

Although people seldom associate accounting and biography, Stephen A. Zeff, Herbert S. Autrey Professor of Accounting at Rice, has written a biographical study,

*Henry Rand Hatfield: Humanist, Scholar, and Accounting Educator*. Dr. Zeff was given access to Professor Hatfield’s files and papers at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1963 and found that, in addition to his accounting skills, he was a trained classical scholar and a witty and polished writer. Dr. Zeff pursued his inquiries in 1964-65, but other projects intervened and he did not begin to draft the book until 1987. Thus the project begun in 1963 was finally completed thirty-seven years later.

Following the individual presentations Professor Patten masterfully led a question and answer period, followed by adjournment to the Lovett Lounge for refreshments and more interesting conversation among panelists and audience.

The Friends of Fondren Library is planning to hold its next annual Author’s Reception in February, 2002. If you are aware of a member of the Friends, a Rice alumni, or Rice faculty member who has authored a book in 2001 and should be honored, please contact Mary Pat Julian at the Friends of Fondren office (713-348-5157 or [mjulian@rice.edu](mailto:mjulian@rice.edu)).



Ginny Moyer and Karen Rogers

<b>Madeleine Alcover</b>	<i>OveuresCompletes/ Cyrano de Bergerac</i>
<b>Michael Barlow</b>	Ed., <i>Usage-Based Models of Language</i>
<b>Katherine Balshaw-Biddle</b>	Ed., <i>Steam and Electro-Heating Remediation of Tight Soils</i> Ed., <i>Subsurface Contamination Monitoring Using Laser Fluorescence</i>
<b>Glenn Blake</b>	<i>Drowned Moon</i>
<b>John Boles</b>	Ed., <i>The Journal of Southern History</i>
<b>Logan Browning</b>	Ed., <i>Studies in English Literature</i>
<b>Marcia Citron</b>	<i>Opera on Screen</i> <i>Gender and the Musical Canon</i>
<b>Jane Chance</b>	<i>Medieval Mythography: From the School of Chartres to the Court at Avignon, A.D. 1177 to 1350</i> Ed., <i>St. Bride and her Book: Birgitta of Sweden's Revelations</i>
<b>Sarah Cortez</b>	<i>How to Undress a Cop: Poems</i>
<b>Ian Duck</b>	<i>100 Years of Planck's Quantum</i> <i>God Help All Little Children Read, Write and Spell</i>
<b>Michael O. Emerson</b>	<i>Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America</i>
<b>Kristin A. Farry</b>	<i>Customer-Centered Products: Creating Successful Products through Smart Requirements Management</i>
<b>David Ferris</b>	<i>Schumann's Eichendorff Liederkreis and the Genre of the Romantic Cycle</i>
<b>Richard G. Gordon</b>	Ed., <i>History and Dynamics of Global Plate Motions</i>
<b>Laura F. Hodges</b>	<i>Chaucer and Costume: The Secular Pilgrims in the General Prologue</i>
<b>Brian Huberman</b>	Filmmaker, "The De La Pena Diary"
<b>Dean James</b>	<i>Cruel as the Grave</i>
<b>Carlos Jimenez</b>	<i>2G: Carlos Jimenez</i>
<b>Blair Justice</b>	<i>Who Gets Sick: How Beliefs, Moods and Thoughts Affect Health</i>
<b>Maria-Regina Kecht</b>	Ed., <i>Languages Across the Curriculum: Interdisciplinary Structures and Internationalized Education</i>
<b>Darra Keeton</b>	Artist, Exhibition titled "Jocko"
<b>Suzanne Kemmer</b>	Ed., <i>Usage-Based Models of Language</i>
<b>Lars Lerup</b>	<i>After the City</i>
<b>John L. Margrave</b>	Ed., <i>High Temperature and Materials Science</i>
<b>Justin Martin</b>	<i>Greenspan: The Man Behind Money</i>
<b>K Krueger McDonald</b>	Ed., <i>Studies in English Literature</i>
<b>Linda M. McNeil</b>	<i>Contradictions of School Reform: The Educational Costs of Standardized Testing (Critical Social Thought)</i> Ed., <i>American Educational Research Journal</i>
<b>Rafael M. Merida-Jimenez</b>	Edition of <i>El Conde Lucanor</i> , written by Don Juan Manuel in the 14 <sup>th</sup> century

<b>E. Douglas Mitchell</b>	Playwright, Various plays
<b>Elizabeth Moon</b>	<i>Against the Odds</i>
<b>Virginia A. Moyer</b>	Ed., <i>Evidence-Based Pediatrics and Child Health</i>
<b>Robert Patten</b>	Ed., <i>Studies in English Literature</i>
<b>Maria Rubins</b>	<i>Crossroads of Art, Crossroads of Cultures: Ecphrasis in Russian and French Poetry</i>
<b>Freeman Self</b>	<i>Refining Overview: Petroleum, Processes, and Products</i>
<b>Daniel J. Sherman</b>	<i>The Construction of Memory in Interwar France</i>
<b>Edward Snow</b>	Translator, <i>Rainer Maria Rilke, "Duino Elegies"</i>
<b>Paul D. Spanos</b>	Ed., <i>International Journal of Non-Linear Mechanics</i> Ed., <i>Journal of Probabilistic Engineering Mechanics</i>
<b>Gale Stokes</b>	<i>The West Transformed: A History of Western Civilization</i>
<b>Neal Tannahill</b>	<i>Texas Government: Policy and Politics</i> (6 <sup>th</sup> edition)
<b>Alvin R. Tarlov</b>	Ed., <i>The Society and Population Health Reader: A State and Community Perspective</i>
<b>Ewa M. Thompson</b>	<i>Imperial Knowledge: Russian Literature and Colonialism</i> <i>Trubadurzy Imperium: Literatura Rosyjska I Kolonializm</i> Ed., <i>The Sarmatian Review</i>
<b>Drexel Turner</b>	<i>Clayton's Galveston</i>
<b>Mary D. Wade</b>	<i>T is for Texas</i> <i>Texas: Fun Facts and Games</i>
<b>C.H. Ward</b>	Ed., <i>Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry</i> Ed., <i>Modular Remediation Testing System</i> Ed., <i>NAPL Removal (Surfactants, Foams, and Microemulsions)</i> Ed., <i>Phytoremediation of Hydrocarbon-Contaminated Soil</i> Ed., <i>Remediation of Firing-Range Impact Berms</i> Ed., <i>Reuse of Surfactants and Co solvents for NAPL Remediation</i> Ed., <i>Sequenced Reactive Barriers for Groundwater Remediation</i> Ed., <i>Soil Vapor Extraction Using Radio Frequency Heating (Resource Manual and Technology Demonstration)</i> Ed., <i>Steam and Electro-Heating Remediation of Tight Soils</i> Ed., <i>Subsurface Contamination Monitoring Using Laser Fluorescence</i> Ed., <i>Sustainable Development: The Challenge of Transition</i>
<b>Michael Webster</b>	Transcriber, "Jeux d'enfants" by Georges Bizet for flute, clarinet, and piano
<b>David Westheimer</b>	<i>The Great Wounded Bird and Other Poems</i>
<b>Kate Wheeler</b>	<i>When Mountains Walked</i>
<b>Michael Winkelman</b>	<i>Shamanism: The Neural Ecology of Consciousness and Healing</i>
<b>Edith Wyschogrod</b>	<i>Emmanuel Levinas: The Problem of Ethical Metaphysics</i>
<b>Stephen A. Zeff</b>	<i>Henry Rand Hatfield: Humanist, Scholar, and Accounting Educator</i>

# Bookmark

*Bookmark is the book club of the Friends of Fondren Library, featuring book reviews both in print and online at our web site. You can participate by sending your own reviews and comments to fojl@rice.edu.*

## **Parting the Waters: America in the King Years 1954-1963**

by Taylor Branch

(New York: Simon and Schuster, 1988)

### Review by Alan Grob Professor of English

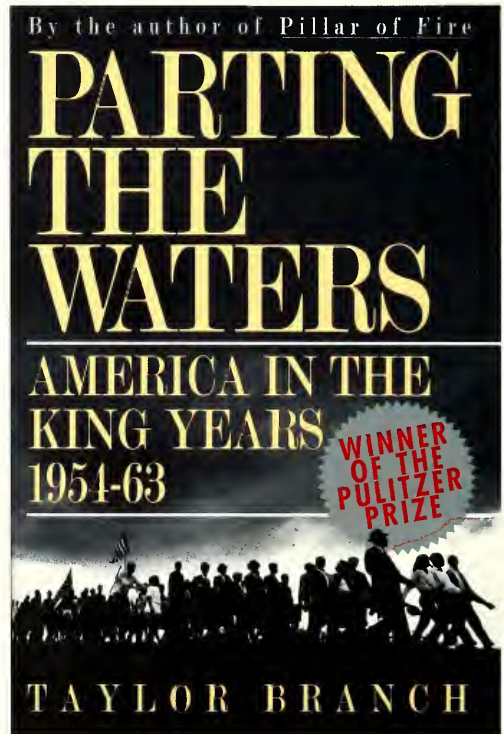
The last time I pestered Elizabeth Kidd to invite Taylor Branch to speak in the Fondren Library lecture series, I blurted out that his Pulitzer Prize-winning history of the civil rights movement, *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years 1954-1963*, was the very best book I had ever read. It was a claim that astonished even me. After all, for forty years I have been a professor of English at Rice and have read more than my share of the literary masterpieces of the ages; and, besides, I know that *Parting the Waters* did not even make the Modern Library list of the one hundred best works of non-fiction of the twentieth century. Still, in my heart of hearts, it was a claim that for me had the ring of truth. I can think of no book I have read, that more deeply informed, stirred, and enthralled me, no book I can remember that kept me so wide

awake night after night until I had avidly finished reading the last of its thousand pages.

That it is a masterful telling—eloquent, richly detailed, suspenseful, compelling—goes without saying. But unquestionably it is what is so greatly told, its great subject, the transcendent moral event of my lifetime, the civil rights movement, especially in its earliest phase, that gives *Parting the Waters* its true grandeur. *Parting the Waters* seems to me a book that every American should read, both those who would learn about this incomparable episode in our history and those who would relive it.

For those of us conditioned to look back upon those years, 1954-1963, through the mists of memory as an overcoming by black and white together in the words of the old anthem of the civil rights movement, *Parting the Waters* provides a needed reminder of the extent to which the major events in the civil rights movement, es-

pecially during that crucial first phase were almost exclusively black undertakings: the Montgomery bus boycott, the earliest sit-ins, and the perilous voter-registration drives in Mississippi (the most notable exception probably being the freedom rides where blacks and whites did work in concert, sharing the danger and often the beatings, as they tested those court and regulatory rul-



ings that had ostensibly mandated the integration of facilities used in interstate transportation). Accordingly, the true heroes of

*Parting the Waters* are, by and large, African Americans, most of them little remembered and largely unsung now, with names like Diane Nash, Anzie Moore, James Lawson, men and women who probably deserve monuments in those cities and towns in Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee and throughout the South to which they finally brought the freedom and true justice that were the promise of America. Most especially there is Robert Moses, about whom those I recommend reading *Parting the Waters* never fail to speak of with anything less than reverence, a Harvard-trained philosopher whose fearlessness and bravery awed even those other heroes of the civil rights movement who endured jail, beatings and attempts on their lives for their great cause. Above all, there is the book's titular hero, Martin Luther King, the black Moses who parted the waters, not by supernatural agency (though he might have believed so), but by his wisdom, foresight, and undaunted courage.

But the chronicling of this first phase of the civil rights movement does not offer much in which white Americans can take pride or even find comfort. To be sure, there were some white Americans who served and abetted the civil rights movement from the beginning, but these earliest supporters were largely, as Branch characterizes them, "eccentrics of assorted varieties—pietists, incendiaries, one-worlders, Communists, and other ideologues," with King's task "to distinguish between

kooks and quixotics of promise." More numerous and far more politically powerful were the villains of the piece, Ross Barnett, George Wallace, Bull Connor, placing state-mandated obstacles in the way of every step towards integration and giving tacit sanction to the violence and terror that consumed the South during these years—the Birmingham police, for example, granting the Klan fifteen unmolested minutes in the Birmingham terminal when the bus carrying the freedom riders rolled in. Still more saddening though is the indifference and apathy of most white Americans at this great moment of moral struggle, with no figure more dishearteningly apathetic and indifferent, more wanting in necessary courage than John F. Kennedy, his course time and time again determined by what he perceived to be his political interest in carrying the South in the 1964 election, his temporizing and trimming reinforced by the cautions of the clearly racist and seemingly delusional J. Edgar Hoover. Indeed, no judgment seems harsher than that delivered on Kennedy in the final pages of *Parting the Waters*. Acknowledging the irony that by his assassination and the mourning that followed, Kennedy "acquired the Lincolnesque mantle of a unifying crusader who had bled against the thorn of race," Branch makes clear it was a mantle undeserved, "the best spirit of Kennedy" being "largely absent from the racial deliberations of his presidency." I hope that all of you will take the opportunity to read this truly wonderful book.

*continued from page 9*

mously the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism in the Vietnam War. The captain of the ship had called Mary to tell her the ship would be decommissioned in 2002 and to invite her to the ceremony that would take place on that occasion. Almost as an afterthought it seemed, he invited her to make the short trip on the vessel, and she was thrilled to accept. I was glad to hear that an arm of our Armed Services would treat so considerately the family of one who had made such a sacrifice for his country. Mary tells me that from her experience such treatment is not the exception, but the rule.

Mary Bixby has her work cut out for her. Elsewhere in this edition you will read in an article by Kent Anderson about the ambitious plans for a great new library at Rice, and the tens of millions of dollars that must be raised to make it happen. Mary, however, has in her time at Rice only increased the confidence in those with whom she has worked that she is uniquely qualified to help Chuck Henry and others make good things happen for the new library. As well, she has increased the numbers of Friends of Fondren who want to help her succeed.

# Horton Foote Will Give 2001 Friends' Lecture

BY ANNE RIBBLE

**The Friends of Fondren Library is pleased to announce that noted playwright and author Horton Foote will give the annual Distinguished Guest Lecture on Sunday, September 16, 2001, at Stude Hall, Alice Pratt Brown Hall at 5:00 p.m..**

Accolades seem to follow Mr. Foote. His plays, two dozen in all, have been produced on Broadway, off-Broadway, off-off-Broadway and at many regional theaters. Skillful at constructing screenplays, he received an Emmy for dramatizing William Faulkner's *The Old Man* and an Academy Award for Best Screenplay of Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird*. His own "Tender Mercies" won another Oscar for Best Original Screenplay, as well as the Writer's Guild Award for Best Screenplay.

Mr. Foote received the Pulitzer Prize in drama for "The Young Man from Atlanta." Add to that honor the Writer's Guild of America Lifetime Achievement Award, and the U.S. Presidential National Medal of Arts last December.

Houstonians can attend the first performances of Mr. Foote's play "The Carpetbaggers' Children" in June at the Alley Theatre.

Beyond playwriting, Mr. Foote has written a memoir, *Farewell*, published in 1999. In November 2001 Scribners will

publish a follow-on, *Beginnings*.

Mr. Foote has given audiences memorable characters and situations. Who could forget "The Trip to Bountiful,"

among others of his dramas? Plan to join the Friends for this memorable opportunity to listen and to interact with Texas native son, Horton Foote.





# Book Sale Scheduled for Fall

BY KAREN HESS ROGERS

The Friends of Fondren biennial book sale will be held October 26, 27, and 28 this fall in the Grand Hall, Rice Memorial Center. The decision was made last year to hold the book sale every other year so that we could offer the best possible selection of new and used books to our customers. A fall book *drive* was held in October of 2000 at Star Motor Cars and many handsome and interesting books were received. We are still soliciting books so that the next book sale will be the biggest and best ever. Every kind of book, in good condition, is welcome: fiction, non-fiction, hardback or paperback. We thank you in advance for finding another home for certain items: sets of old encyclopedias, magazines, books damaged by insects or dirt, outdated technical books, outdated directories, catalogs, and damaged or yellowed paperbacks, as these do not sell.

The sale will be open on Friday for the first time in order to give campus staff and faculty an opportunity to browse through the extensive inventory. Prices will be \$2 for hardbacks and 50 cents for paperbacks with a special "Better Books" section of individually priced volumes. Keep your eye out for your invitation to the members-only preview party!

We are still actively collecting books for the upcoming sale. Book drop-off information follows:

## Star Motor Cars at 7000 Katy Road

Monday-Saturday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.  
Call 713-868-6800 if you need directions.

Many thanks to Lee and Glenn Seureau for generously sharing this storage space and for the assistance of their employees.

We extend our thanks to all who have supported the Friends' book sales and recent book drive. With your help we will have another successful sale!

For more information, contact the Friends of Fondren Library at 713-348-5157 or [mjulian@rice.edu](mailto:mjulian@rice.edu).



# Friends of Fondren Library

October 1, 2000 – February 28,  
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Membership in the Friends of Fondren Library is open to everyone. It is not an alumni organization. Membership contributions are as follows:

Recent Alumni(1-5 years since graduation from Rice).....	\$10
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Library Fellow .....	\$1,000

Members of the Friends receive *The Flyleaf* and invitations to special programs and events sponsored by the Friends. Members who are not already faculty or staff of the university receive library privileges. A maximum of four books may be checked out for a period of 28 days, and a photo ID is required. Members must be at least 18. Checks for membership contributions should be made out to the Friends of Fondren Library and mailed to Rice University, Friends of Fondren Library MS 245, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, Texas 77251-1892, along with your preferred name and address listing and home and business phone numbers. Under Internal Revenue Service Guidelines the estimated value of the benefits received is not substantial; therefore the full amount of your gift is a deductible contribution.

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# Looking Ahead

*Mark your calendars now for upcoming Friends of Fondren Library events.*

## May 22, 2001

The Friends of Fondren Annual Meeting will be Tuesday, May 22, 2001, at Cohen House. The evening will begin with a reception, followed by a dinner and program, featuring Dr. Charles Henry who will speak on "Transforming Space: The New Library at Rice University."

## September 16, 2001

Horton Foote, Distinguished Guest Lecture in Stude Hall, Alice Pratt Brown Hall at 5:00 p.m.



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