Director Heath Retires After More Than a Decade of Accomplishment

Fred Heath began his library career at the University of Richmond (Virginia) in 1973, serving as government documents librarian and providing reference assistance to the students and faculty of that small private school. For the 40 years since he has made contributions to academic libraries including Radford University, the University of North Alabama, Texas Christian University and Texas A&M University before joining The University of Texas at Austin. On August 31, Heath will retire after eleven years of service as Vice Provost and Director of Libraries for the University of Texas at Austin.

Those Austin years – 2003 through 2014 – correspond to a period of rapid technological innovation and far-reaching transformation of the nature and role of research university libraries. The decade was a period of severe economic pressure, unprecedented scrutiny of public higher education, and a stunningly swift transition from a university collection defined largely by its vast collection of printed volumes to a digital information universe orders of magnitude larger.

As economic pressures impacted operating budgets, fundraising presented an early opportunity for the University of Texas Libraries. Heath moved quickly to address the need for new funding...
sources to supplement slumping revenues from traditional sources such as tuition and legislative appropriations.

The first development office for the Libraries was established in 2004, and shortly thereafter Heath oversaw the creation of the organization’s first advisory council and the launch of the first annual giving campaign. In the first three years of development efforts, the Libraries raised over $2 million, bearing out the significance of the new director’s initiative. Support came from both organizations and individuals, including a grant from the University Federal Credit Union to create a modern student commons in the main library, a generous gift from UT alumnus Jan Roberts to rename and upgrade the reading room in the Fine Arts Library and several sizable philanthropic contributions from former math faculty member Dr. David Nilsson to support initiatives in literature, drama and Latin American studies.

Heath’s arrival also coincided with rapidly escalating challenges presented by the expansion of Internet-based digital resources and services. Google was becoming the major competitor to Yahoo; Wikipedia was beginning to hit its stride; and Amazon was in the midst of transforming the book trade. It was becoming clear that the nature of information distribution was increasingly reliant on digital media; how research libraries and universities should address this looming change was less apparent.

“In a very real way, our efforts in the digital arena represent a focused extension of work that began with my predecessor, Harold Billings, who recognized the need for libraries to embrace the digital shift,” says Heath. “We saw an opportunity to build on the successes of the past by moving to make the Libraries’ infrastructure and operations scalable and sustainable.

“We also recognized that there were transformations in the way teaching and learning take place that had to be addressed. Library futures cannot be built on historical momentum alone. It is necessary to understand what our colleges want, to know what our students need. What the faculty needs for research or teaching is not the same as what students need for the classroom. We had to be willing to depart from accepted ways of doing things on campus, while simultaneously finding ways to be economical and efficient in advancing teaching and learning.”

Heath saw collaborative ventures as a key strategy, and looked first to opportunities for collaboration within the state’s higher education community. In 2005, the University Libraries joined in a partnership with representatives from the other major state research universities to form the Texas Digital Library, to forge common digital directions and to share educational materials, dissertations and related information. To date, the TDL has expanded from its original core group of Texas research universities—UT, Texas A&M, University of Houston and Texas Tech—to include twenty institutions statewide. TDL’s many accomplishments include the development of open electronic thesis and dissertation software that has been adopted by other major universities, such as the University of Illinois, John Hopkins University and M.I.T.

Early in Heath’s tenure, Google approached the Libraries with an invitation to take part in its Google Books Project, an ambitious plan to involve preeminent academic collections around the nation to create a vast, searchable database of all the world’s books. The Libraries agreed to provide the search giant access to the extensive resources of the Benson Latin American Collection for the project, and in just over two years a task that would have required decades and an enormous financial commitment to accomplish locally had reached its completion. The archive that resulted from the work of digitizing some 600,000 volumes in the Libraries’ collection is a global reality. The first large-scale steps were taken in freeing the rich UT collections from their place-bound setting on the shelves of campus libraries and making them broadly available to scholars and learners around the world.

“From the outset it was clear that it (Google Books) was a visionary reach by a commercial firm in the interest of the public good,” says Heath. “What we brought to it is something singularly unique — 600,000 books on Latin America that no one else could contribute. And the opportunity to do that was built upon globalizing Nettie Lee Benson’s vision for the collections at UT. She built a collection of record that, through Google, we are able to share with the world.”
Other important initiatives have served to move the Libraries forward into a new technology-rich digital future. In 2007, UT Libraries implemented a new integrated library system — a resource planning system used to manage all manner of core library functions — replacing its locally developed online catalogue with Innovative's proprietary Millennium system. The creation of the UT Digital Repository made available a free, local and secure place for long-term preservation and archiving of research output, a burgeoning necessity for university faculty and researchers. More recently, the Libraries became partners in HathiTrust, a repository established in 2008, and built upon digital content from partner libraries involved in the Google Books project. Access to those collections increased Libraries digital collections by over 3 million volumes.

Bridgeway provided the Libraries a $1.2 million gift to ensure the project. Working with others, the Libraries created a digital archive documenting one of the modern era’s most horrific episodes — the Rwandan genocide of the mid-1990s. The Bridgeway largess enabled the University of Texas Libraries to showcase the concept of post-custodial archiving, of allowing the home nation to maintain the physical record, while ensuring permanent curation of an accurate digital version. The Rwandan success was the germination of the Human Rights Documentation Initiative, a digital archive committed to the long-term preservation of fragile and vulnerable records of human rights struggles worldwide.

Soon after the web-accessible Genocide Archive Rwanda was conceived and before its construction was even complete, HRDI had already entered into agreements with several other organizations to help with digital preservation projects: the Free Burma Rangers, a group documenting human rights violations in the southeast Asian state; the Museo de la Palabra y la Imagen, which was maintaining guerilla radio broadcasts from an era of political strife in El Salvador; the Texas After Violence Project, a group documenting through oral history the effects of violence and capital punishment in the Lone Star State; and WITNESS, a global organization dedicated to collecting physical documentation of human rights abuses worldwide. One of the most significant partnerships arose quite literally by chance: the random discovery of a huge cache of deteriorating documents in a warehouse that detailing the 36-year history of an authoritarian police force in Guatemala created an opportunity for the Libraries to partner with the custodians of the archive to make sure that a shadowy history was not lost to time.

Nor were human rights efforts the only initiatives to link physical primary resources to a digital counterpart. The Libraries also joined in the creation of Primeros Libros, another post-custodial endeavor by a consortium of institutions to preserve a digital collection of all first books printed in Mexico and Peru before 1601 — works providing primary sources for the research of cultural history, linguistics, religious studies and related fields of study, and representing some of the first distributed knowledge of life in the New World. For the first time, the entire corpus of western hemisphere incunabula would soon be digitally accessible to scholars around the world.

And Heath agreed to partnerships with outside interests in need of Libraries expertise to ensure that invaluable cultural and historical resources would be available to future generations. Voces — an oral history project undertaken by project director and journalist professor Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez — found a home with development and hosting support at the Libraries, and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation saw fit to call upon the libraries for its help in the creation of AVoice, home to the to the rich history of political and legislative contributions of African Americans in the U.S.
House of Representatives and Senate. The Libraries also provided a home for the *Historias* archive, a Latino oral history partner of the popular StoryCorps program funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The rich technology infrastructure developed under Heath’s direction also made it possible to provide a framework for supporting the digital collections of campus partners like the Briscoe Center for American History and The Harry Ransom Center. While keeping abreast of the impacts of technology, Heath ensured that the Libraries maintained the necessary focus on its core mission to gather, preserve and make accessible knowledge in all forms, including the most traditional.

During this time, the Libraries surpassed 10 million books in its overall collection and built a vast universe of electronic journals and databases, while continuing to acquire the kinds of rare and unique primary resources that help make the university a recognizable and respected institution both locally and internationally. When a plumbing disaster struck at the State Theater in downtown Austin, Heath offered to accept historical documents from that venue and its renowned sister institution, the Paramount Theater, at the Fine Arts Library. He presided over the continuing growth of the Architecture & Planning Library and Alexander Architectural Archive, which saw the arrival of collections from state, national and international firms and individuals, including former University of Texas Architect Herbert Miller Greene, and documents from Houston architect and Frank Lloyd Wright devotee Karl Kamrath, as well as a generous endowment provided by beloved architecture professor and archive namesake Blake Alexander. The Benson Latin American Collection continued its preeminent role in that field, growing its collections in literature, art, history, human rights and more, with notable acquisitions like the archive of Chicana author and cultural theorist Gloria Anzaldúa and the papers of human rights activists Charles and Joyce Horman, as well as the archive of “Mr. Human Rights,” treasured State Department diplomat George Lister. And when Austin broadcast institution and NPR affiliate KUT recently went in search of a home for a collection of CDs and vinyl records that had been amassed over 50 years, the acquisition of over 60,000 CDs and 4,000 LPs provided a clear opportunity for increasing the resources in the Libraries’ remarkable Historic Music Recordings Collection by over 25%.

“Our focus will always be on the unique physical artifact — that’s what a research university does,” says Heath. “There’s a subtle distinction there — it’s not just any physical artifact, though, it’s the unique physical artifact that is significant.”

“New discovery tools reveal to us that vast overlapping holdings of the same title may be a redundant investment in collections and in space. But the unique 20th century physical artifact is going to find its home in research libraries of the 21st century. All of those unique materials are going to come to us, because we remain the safe place for them to go.”

These evolutionary changes at libraries affected more than just how people consume information. They changed expectations for what libraries are, so concurrently with meeting new resource demands, the Libraries had to reassess just how they would operate going forward.

With the trajectory of expenditures on books and expenditures on digital resources inverting around 2003, Heath arrived just in time to test some ideas for reimagining library spaces by preserving, but relocating resources until the point of need. He tripled the capacity for preservation of traditional formats through a series of innova-

Benson Assistant Head Librarian Christian Kellither and Fred Heath participate in a memorial march at the Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre.
branches (especially the PCL), they also became more vocal in their requests for improvements. In 2012, the successful candidates for Student Government ran on a ticket of bringing 24-hour service to PCL. Working with Heath’s guidance, the students helped to secure permanent funding for the increased hours to the delight of students campus-wide. The libraries, both in form and function, were quickly becoming responsive to meeting the needs of its user community.

It’s understandable that, at times, the academic libraries become so interwoven into the consciousness of a university, their value can be overlooked by students and faculty alike. In imagining ways to reinvigorate the relationship between faculty and the Libraries, Heath and Dr. Charles Hale — head of the Teresa Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies (LILAS) — conceived a novel construct that combined the preeminent faculty core of LILAS in an active partnership with the staff expertise and scholarly resources of the Benson Latin American Collection. The shared vision was to enhance and streamline efforts in the areas of hemispheric collaboration, scholarly integration, public engagement and development. With the approval of university administration, the newly formed LILAS Benson Latin American Studies and Collections — launched in 2011 — continues to develop and grow, and recently earned accolades from the external program review of LILAS.

With all of the work it has taken to nurture the Libraries through a period of upheaval, Heath also has seen the Libraries efforts receive attention for the successes they engendered. Perhaps the most notable honorific of Heath’s tenure was bestowed upon the Benson Latin American Collection by Mexico City Mayor Marcelo Ebrard Casaubon, who, at a ceremony in Mexico City in 2010, presented the Medalla 1808 to the special collection for its many contributions to the history and culture of Mexico. The Benson was the only organization beyond national borders so recognized at the ceremony.

Heath’s expertise in library and higher education administration attracted a fair share of professional organizations to request his personal knowledge and service, as well. He chaired the Board of the Center for Research Libraries and served on board of the Coalition for Networked Information, and the Steering Committee of the Digital Library Federation. He served as President of the prestigious Board of Directors of the Association of Research Libraries, as well as chair of the Texas Council of State University Librarians. He also sat on the Editorial Boards of Library Quarterly and Journal of Library Administration, and served as editor of Library Administration and Management and as chair of the editorial advisory board to College and Research Library News.

And one of Heath’s lasting contributions to libraries was the result of several years work at Texas A&M with his colleagues Colleen Cook and Bruce Thompson — along with a team of faculty and research professionals — in the development of the assessment tool LibQUAL+™ that librarians use to solicit, track, understand and act upon users’ opinions of service quality. Heath has continued to work with a team of stakeholders to hone and improve the tool since it was implemented during his time at UT, and it is currently deployed to over 1,200 libraries in over 28 countries helping libraries to adapt to the needs of users worldwide. In 2014, The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and the Library Assessment Conference Planning Committee named Heath a recipient of the 2014 Library Assessment Career Achievement Awards, recognizing his substantial contributions to effective, sustainable, and practical library assessment.

This partial list of Libraries’ accomplishments during Fred Heath’s tenure on the Forty Acres is sweeping in its scope, but hardly surprising to those who’ve worked with him. As he departs The University of Texas at Austin having piloted the Libraries through one of its most challenging periods, the students, faculty, staff and researchers that have relied upon his strong mind and steady hand for leadership can view with great appreciation all that he has done to leave their university better than he found it.

“From creating a development and advisory structure for our libraries to modernizing study space and leveraging the ongoing digital revolution, Fred’s leadership has been superb,” states UT President William Powers. “We should all be glad he chose UT Austin as the setting for the last chapter of a long and distinguished career.”
Building Experience
Architecture Pilots Graduate Student Curator Project

The School of Architecture loaned one of its best and brightest during the 2013-14 academic year for an innovative pilot project in partnership with the Architecture and Planning Library and Alexander Architectural Archive.

As part of her graduate studies, Emily Ardoin — working on her M.S. in Historic Preservation — was invited to use the special collections of the Alexander Archive and the resources of the library to curate a comprehensive exhibit on subject matter of her choice approved through a joint review process by the campus partners.

After an exhaustive period of research, development and production, the finished exhibit, “Inside Modern Texas: The Case for Preserving Interiors,” opened in April at the University of Texas at Austin Architecture & Planning Library.

“Inside Modern Texas” offers insight on interior design during the period 1945 to 1975, touching upon the development of the profession and the issues faced today in historic preservation. Texas interiors from this period serve as case studies to illustrate emerging ideas in design and practice.

The exhibit includes photographs, original drawings and printed materials from the archive and library, featuring architects and interior designers that include George L. Dahl, Harwell Hamilton Harris, Karl Kamrath, Howard R. Meyer and John Astin Perkins.

Head Librarian Beth Dodd hopes that collaborations such as this will provide graduate students with opportunities to use the archives to produce new scholarship. “We are always looking for ways to enhance the student experience, and curating an exhibit is an incredibly rigorous process that demands thorough research, careful selection and interpretation of materials and exhibit design. The endowment created by the late Professor Blake Alexander now enables us to offer our students this funded internship.”

Mid-twentieth-century buildings are gaining widespread acceptance as candidates for historic preservation, but few retain their original modern interiors. Because they are so closely connected to human activity, interiors can be especially important conveyors of historic
Return to Rwanda
Heath Heads Back to Mark an Anniversary

This year marked the solemn anniversary of one of the worst genocides in modern history, and representatives of the Libraries were on hand to observe the occasion along with a nation still coming to grips with a historical infamy.

The Rwandan genocide occurred in 1994, and while a reconciliation of sorts is ongoing, the country still bears the scars of a time when neighbors became enemies, and an entire country paid the price. In April, Libraries Vice Provost and Director Fred Heath and Benson archivist Christian Kelleher traveled to Kigali at the invitation of the Rwandan government for Kwibuka20, the 20th anniversary commemoration of the Hutu genocide against the Tutsi.

Heath and Kelleher attended a number of events marking the occasion, including the International Forum, “After Genocide: Examining legacy, taking responsibility” at the Rwandan Parliament building and the National Commemoration Event at Amahoro Stadium, as well as the national Walk to Remember. The pair also toured the Gacaca Courts archive, more than 18,000 currently uncataloged boxes of records from the grassroots court system that tried some 2 million genocide perpetration cases and is now the largest single documentary record of the Genocide.

The Libraries support for archives projects documenting the Genocide was highlighted at partner Aegis Trust’s official launch of its Global Centre for Humanity on the grounds of the Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre. The Libraries were invited to participate with Aegis Trust/Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre in a steering committee that included an extraordinary assembly of organizations with interests in the area of human rights: the Rwandan National Commission for the Fight Against Genocide (CNLG), the Dutch NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies, King’s College London and USC’s Shoah Foundation, all of which were represented in the review of a feasibility study undertaken by Aegis and NIOD regarding further efforts to preserve Genocide archives in Rwanda.

One of the priority archives that the group agreed to work on collaboratively was the archive of the Gacaca Courts, which is the single most important record of the 1994 Genocide, documenting some 2 million genocide cases pursued at the grassroots level in Rwanda. Representatives of Aegis Trust/Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre have recently visited the Libraries to discuss collaborative efforts in Rwanda, specifically a burgeoning project called “Historical Clarity” — a term taken from Rwandan President Paul Kagame’s Kwibuka20 speech to Amahoro Stadium on April 7 — that will aim to preserve, catalog and digitize Rwandan newspapers including Kinyarwanda, — the Catholic Church newspaper that was the country’s first and began publishing in the 1930s — as well as the government newspaper Insho and others, none of which are widely accessible but contain an important record of Rwandan history during its colonial and first republic periods that were so instrumental in setting the stage for the 1994 Genocide.

significance, but they are highly vulnerable to changing tastes and functional requirements. The perceived impermanent nature of interior design components and historic preservation legislation which often focuses on building exteriors further complicates preservation efforts.

Repositories such as the Alexander Architectural Archive provide opportunities to study the history of design. “Because interiors are so vulnerable to change, teaching and research rely on libraries and archives for historic documentation,” notes Dodd. “In this first exhibit, Emily had to dig deep to discover material in the collections of architects who were only starting to recognize interior design as a distinct profession.”

The opening reception for the exhibition was held in conjunction with the Society of Architectural Historians 2014 Annual Conference. The exhibit will be on display in Battle Hall through mid-September, and is open to the public.
Future Tense
Establishing the Heath Libraries Tomorrow Fund

Although Director Fred Heath will be departing the university after a remarkable decade leading the Libraries, contemplating the future of libraries — specifically our UT Libraries — has been a persistent focus for him.

In honor of Fred’s retirement, the University Federal Credit Union is making a gift to establish the Fred and Joan Heath Libraries Tomorrow Fund. This endowment will provide funds to address future unknown needs and enhancements of the University of Texas Libraries.

The Libraries Tomorrow Fund is also an alternative for donors who want to support the Libraries, but who are not ready to make an investment of $25,000 or more. This fund allows donors to establish an endowment over a timeframe that is convenient for them. This is a unique opportunity for a donor to have an immediate impact without fully funding an endowment until they are able to.

The best part is that the University Federal Credit Union has pledged to match gifts up to $25,000, which means that your gift today will be doubled and have an even greater impact.

Any gift contributed to the Libraries Tomorrow Fund will help the UT Libraries of the future today.

Plan for tomorrow. Give today.

Please contact Gregory Perrin to make your gift at 512-495-4349 or perring@austin.utexas.edu, or give online at http://tinyurl.com/LibraryTomorrowFund.

Library Alumni Meet Up in Las Vegas

On May 5, the Libraries hosted the first annual lounge for graduating University of Texas Libraries student employees. Students had the opportunity to stop by and drop-in for pizza, refreshments and a special graduation gift.

We are proud of the 64 students who graduated this spring. Library Alumni who attended the American Library Association conference in Las Vegas, were invited to attend UT Libraries’ first annual Library Alumni Happy Hour at ALA, June 28.

These events are part of the Library Alumni Program to further engage and reconnect with the Libraries current and former student employees. Student employees are invaluable to the success of the Libraries.

If you worked in the Libraries as an undergraduate or graduate student, you are our Library Alumni. Please let us know so we can include you in upcoming activities. For more information, please contact Natalie Moore at nmoore@austin.utexas.edu.

Documented Progress
Benson Receives Téjano Monument Archive

The Benson Latin American Collection announced the donation of materials related to the creation of the Téjano Monument on the grounds of the Texas State Capitol.

The Téjano Monument, Inc. Records archive includes the historical documents, blueprints, audio, video and other artifacts generated through the work of the Téjano Monument Committee.

The monument was commissioned by the non-profit Téjano Statue-Capitol, Inc., in conjunction with the Téjano Statue Committee and the State Preservation Board, and was created by artist Armando Hinojosa. Unveiled on March 29, 2012, the monument honors the history and contributions of Mexican Americans in Texas.

The donation was provided by the Téjano Monument Committee Board of Directors — which includes former University of Texas Libraries Advisory Council members Cayetano E. Barrera and Andres Tijerina — and has been accompanied by an additional $2,000 for the processing of the collection.

The collection joins a previous donation of materials — the Téjano Monument Collection — related specifically to the monument unveiling celebration at the Texas State Capitol.
Bringing it Home

**LLILAS Benson Earns Mellon Grant**

By Susanna Sharpe

The Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies and the Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection — collectively LLILAS Benson Latin American Studies and Collections — recently received a grant of $149,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to carry out a project titled “Post-Custodial Archival Development and Digital Scholarship: Learning from Latin America.”

The grant will boost archival development and enable collaboration between Latin American studies scholars and archivists to identify collections with high potential for scholarly impact.

The term “post-custodial” refers to a process by which the original holdings of archival material maintain that custody while partnering with another organization — in this case LLILAS Benson — in order to digitize and preserve their archives.

“The post-custodial model facilitates mutually beneficial relationships, pairing communities with limited archival resources to work with archivists who can share their technical expertise and resources to help build and strengthen preservation practices on-site within the community” says T-Kay Sangwand, human rights archivist for the University of Texas Libraries’ Human Rights Documentation Initiative (HRDI).

The model has already been successfully implemented through LLILAS Benson’s partnership with the Historical National Police Archive in Guatemala (AHPN) and the HRDI’s work in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the United States.

The team will launch three pilot projects with partners in Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua that were chosen for their significant holdings of archival materials, and will create an extensive directory of post-custodial archival opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean. These organizations are CIRMA (Centro de Investigaciones Regionales de Mesoamérica) in Antigua, Guatemala; MUPI (El Museo de la Palabra y la Imagen) in San Salvador, El Salvador; and CIDCA Historical Cultural Museum (Center for Research and Documentation on the Atlantic Coast) in Bluefields, Nicaragua. The team will also create an extensive directory of post-custodial archival opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean. From this directory, scholars and archivists will choose additional sites for future archival partnerships.

The 18-month project is funded from June 1, 2014, through Nov. 30, 2015.

Newly hired archivist Theresa Polk will work with a team led by the project’s principal investigator, LLILAS Benson Director Charles Hale, and co-principal investigator Sangwand. LLILAS Benson will host the project in close collaboration with the University of Texas Libraries.

This archival development project has important ramifications for scholarship, teaching and archival practice. Through it, scholars and students will gain unprecedented access to new materials and records, while archivists will leverage their expertise and resources to help ensure long-term preservation of, and access to, vulnerable archival records by working directly with the record-creating communities.

“Thanks to the generosity of the Mellon Foundation, the Benson Latin American Collection will be able to redouble its efforts to preserve rich, important and sometimes endangered historical resources while maintaining a principled approach to issues of cultural patrimony,” says Fred Heath, Vice Provost and Director of the Libraries.

“This support validates our efforts to provide access to vital primary resources in ways that recognize the changing nature of research in the modern world, both at The University of Texas at Austin, and across the global community.”
Verse for Verse

Libraries Celebrate National Poetry Month with Laureates

In April, a celebration of National Poetry Month at the University of Texas Libraries featured two notable Texas masters of verse reading from their acclaimed works.

Texas Poet Laureates Rosemary Catacalos (2013-14) and Dean Young (2014-15) presented readings in an evening program of the Libraries Ruth Stephan Poetry Collection at the Perry-Castañeda Library (PCL). The readings were followed by a discussion on the state and fate of poetry in the contemporary world with Lisa L. Moore of the English Department, and broadsides — graphic interpretations of poems and representative artwork — created by university design students, were provided to attendees.

The program is sponsored by the university’s English Department, New Writers Project and University of Texas Libraries, and co-sponsored by the Michener Center for Writers, Humanities Texas, Texas Commission on the Arts, Center for Women’s and Gender Studies, Design in the Department of Art + Art History and Red Salmon Arts/Resistencia Books.

This program was made possible in part by a generous grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and contributions from alumni and friends.

The event was intended to highlight efforts by the Libraries, along with campus partners in the English Department/New Writers Project and the Michener Center for Writers to fund the consolidation of the Stephan collection with additional volumes in the creation of a new UT Poetry Center on the ground level of PCL.
Better By the Dozen
¡A Viva Voz! Turns Twelve
with Las Cafeteras

In early April, around 250 revelers showed up in the Benson Collection’s main reading room for a baile in celebration of Latino culture. LLILAS Benson Latin American Studies and Collections hosted its 12th annual ¡A Viva Voz! celebration featuring a concert by Las Cafeteras, a band famous for its energetic bilingual performances and community-focused message.

Las Cafeteras fuses traditional and modern beats with timely stories from the LA streets. The group remixes traditional sounds, combining Afro-Caribbean marimba, the jarana and requinto guitars of Mexican son jarocho, hip-hop, Native American drum and flute, and stomp- ing zapateado dancing with uplifting English and Spanlish lyrics that tell of everyday people searching for love and fighting injustice in the concrete jungle.

This year’s program was sponsored by LLILAS Benson, CAAAS, CMAS, International Student and Scholar Services and the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement.

¡A Viva Voz! was developed by former Benson director Ann Hartness to highlight the library’s broad hemispheric cultural resources, engage the local community and celebrate U.S. Latino culture. Past events have featured a variety of speakers and performers, including Afro-Latin funk band Oxote Soul Sounds, renowned Chicana artist Carmen Lomas Garza, author David Rice, actor Luis Avalos and comic artists Los Bros Hernandez.

The Benson Latin American Collection is a special collection of the University of Texas Libraries.

Return of the Outsider
Zine Panel Features Artist and
UT Alum Michael Sieben

The Fine Arts Library joined the Visual Arts Center in welcoming a University of Texas alum back to campus to share his perspectives from the street level.

FAL hosted a panel presentation in March featuring the Visual Arts Center’s 2014 artist-in-residence Michael Sieben along with three experts who have an interest and passion for zines and limited editions. Sieben — who received his BFA in Studio Art from UT — co-founded the critically-acclaimed Okay Mountain Gallery and Collective and has worked as a commercial designer-illustrator for the likes of MTV, Vans, Vice and Volcom Clothing. He also recently became the managing editor of skateboarding’s Thrasher magazine.

Sieben was joined by Fine Arts Head Librarian Laura Schwartz, Susan Thomas of Long Island University – Brooklyn and studio art lecturer Jason Urban to talk about the cultural significance of the very DIY phenomenon of zines — small circulation self-published works that are the modern-day progeny of pamphlets like Common Sense. The panel was a companion program to the Visual Arts Center’s exhibition of Michael Sieben’s work It Will All Happen Again and a zine-making workshop lead by Sieben in April.

Generous support for It Will All Happen Again was provided by Suzanne Deal Booth and David G. Booth, Stratus Properties and the W Austin.
A Battle for the Ages

Laura Bush spearheads an effort to rehabilitate one of UT’s most important buildings and honor a Texas pioneer.

By Jamey Smith

Predating the UT Tower by a quarter-century, Battle Hall stands, stately and majestic, as a reminder of the university’s early commitment to creating a campus environment that inspires excellence. But after continuously serving untold thousands as a library and far more since its 1911 debut, this redheaded beauty could use a helping hand.

Battle Hall (named in 1973 to honor William James Battle, UT’s sixth president) aptly houses the Architecture and Planning Library, the Center for American Architecture and Design, and faculty for the School of Architecture. Having been put to use over the years not only as a library and archive but also hosting dean’s and president’s offices, art studios, Board of Regents meetings—even the Longhorn Band—it’s fair to say that these various incarnations have taken a collective toll.

“A rehabilitation of Battle Hall is long overdue,” says Architecture Dean Fritz Steiner. “This building, the way our students inhabit and learn from it, supports the school in an integral way, and we want it to continue as a resource for knowledge and inspiration. But like the archives and manuscripts it houses, it is fragile and requires our careful preservation.”

Such a big undertaking calls for a big-name spokesperson, so it is fitting that Distinguished Alumna Laura Bush, MLS ’73, has offered to chair a fundraising effort to address Battle’s preservation and improvements. Acknowledging the former first lady for her commitment to the project, Steiner notes that her enthusiasm stems from “a commitment to history, an appreciation for architecture, a devotion to Texas, a love of libraries, and a fondness for this university.”

For her part, Bush says Battle Hall represents the coming together of several of her interests. “My dad was a builder. I’m a proud graduate of the Library School, and my home was designed by a School of Architecture faculty member. I’m thrilled to be involved and to help show the world how we value the history of this building and all that it means to us as Texans.”

In addition to refurbishing Battle, an essential component of the project will renovate and expand the adjacent West Mall Of-
The Libraries honored the philanthropy of Jan Roberts in a celebration at the Fine Arts Library on March 10. A plaque commemorating Mrs. Roberts and her husband was unveiled at the event held in The Richard T. and Jan J. Roberts Reading Room.
Gather Round
Libraries Host Full Slate of Spring Events

With events manager Jason Sick hitting his stride after a successful full first semester of events in the fall, the Libraries continued to build its programming with a full docket of happenings this spring.

The 9th Annual Nilsson Lecture in Contemporary Drama and Literature received a boost from its association with the international Menuhin Competition which took place at UT from February 21-March 2, 2014.

Founded in 1983, the Yehudi Menuhin International Competition for Young Violinists—hosted this year by the Butler School of Music—attracts some of the world’s best violinists under the age of 22. Author Jonathan Benthall — also son-in-law of the competition’s namesake — presented an enlightening talk about the violin legend’s life, including stories about his collaborations with talents such as Ravi Shankar as well as his unique approaches to music education. Benthall offered “Yehudi Menuhin: Violinist and Visionary” on February 28 during the dinner break of the Junior Finals competition to the audience of roughly sixty people.

As an added attraction for attendees, the Texas State Library brought out a rare and historic item for display at the event. The Journeay Violin — so-named in honor of its creator Henry Journeay — was crafted from wood scraps left over from a chair made for Santa Anna. According to legend, Journeay played the fiddle to entertain Texans taken prisoner in the Mier Expedition.

The Libraries also continued its run of successful recurring programs with engaging offerings from both the Research + Pizza — supported by Austin’s Pizza — and popular Science Study Break series — sponsored by the University Federal Credit Union.

Did Newton really stumble upon his theory of gravitation as the result of an errant piece of fruit? History Department faculty Dr. Alberto Martínez used his March 5th Research + Pizza forum to debunk falling apples, leaning towers and other popular science myths. Martínez drew on his extensive work on the history of science and mathematics, especially the origins of Einstein’s special theory of relativity to right perceptions that resulted from historical embellishments. He’s also the author of Science Secrets: The Truth About Darwin’s Finches, Einstein’s Wife, and Other Myths (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2011).
Dr. Damon Waits, Senior Director and Botanist at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, showed up just in time for the spring riot of color that is wildflower season on April 2 to discuss his efforts helping to maintain an ecological balance between native plants and invasive species in the Texas wild. Waits is responsible for developing the 279 acres of gardens and natural areas at the Wildflower Center, and is the author of the Center’s Native Plant Information Network — the largest online database about native plants in North America. Attendees were able to submit their photos in advance of the event for identification by Waits at the end of the program.

Science Study Break was bigger on the inside in March as Drs. Vernita Gordon of the Department of Physics and Martin Kevoorkian of the Department of English tag-teamed the people’s favorite Time Lord with a breakdown of BBC mainstay Doctor Who. Gordon examined the 50-year-old sci-fi program from her background in biological physics, as well as an early adoration of space travel, while Kevoorkian explored the nexus between technology and culture — and drawing on his degree in mechanical engineering to examine the finer points of technology in the show.

On the scholarly side, the Libraries helped to promote Global Studies at UT with a talk by Professor Donald Davis from the Department of Asian Studies on April 15. Davis discussed an extraordinary set of copper plates surviving from the 9th century that has become important to the understanding of the movement of people, goods and ideas across South Asia and the Indian Ocean region.

Davis discussed collaborative research on what are referred to as the “Kollam plates” that comprise a multi-lingual legal document, inscribed at the port of Kollam in present-day Kerala in 849 CE. Davis’ talk was accompanied an exhibit of four large free-standing printed banners on the Kollam Plates — funded by a grant from the UK’s Arts and Humanities Research Council by De Montfort University in Leicester, England, in collaboration with the British Museum.

And the “You Are Here” cartography series wrapped the semester as it highlighted the map collections of The University of Texas at Austin with a focus on maps that consider dimensions of space not normally associated with the traditional concepts of two-dimensional mapping. Maps from all over the earth and even as far away as Mars were on display to show how cartographers contend with mapping not only what’s visible, but that which is beyond and beneath the visible world, as well. Professor Leon Long of the Department of Geological Sciences provided a companion talk about his geologic mapping projects, including his work with a former UTeach master’s student to reconstruct the ancient landscape of the Llano region of Texas that was later covered over by the Cretaceous sea.
Good Night, Mrs. Calabash

Unless this is your first University of Texas News-letter, you are already aware that this will be the last of my meditations on the Libraries in my official capacity as its director. It’s with both pleasure and a small degree of sorrow that I make note of it. It has been a joy to serve this great university, but no leader should overstay her or his utility, so I will now take my leave. We’ve left the woodpile a little higher I believe, and the organization is ready and prepared to move forward.

Changes in leadership ensure a fresh perspective to face a new era of challenges and opportunities, some of which are forever with us, and some of which reflect the fiscal, policy, and technological realities of this time. In confronting challenges over the last decade or so, while we haven’t been totally satisfied with the actions the state of realities have required, we’ve found some promising solutions, and my successor will have the same opportunity to reassess. Change is a way to re-evaluate challenges, and I am confident that the person fortunate enough to helm these University of Texas Libraries through the next era will bring the same sort of determined optimism and perspective that I hope I’ve presented through my efforts.

There’s great potential before the Libraries, too, despite lingering budgetary prospects and the policy imbroglio that’s been cataloged across the media. The future will be managed and challenges will be surmounted. While maintaining the status quo is not an option, our talented people who are invested in tomorrow will certainly have the opportunity to join the new leadership in making a greater university.

Our new director of the Libraries will have the opportunity to address the current landscape and chart new responses. Our remarkable community will embrace the emergent vision and together you will build a strong vibrant library in service to teaching and research.

As supporters of the Libraries and our University, thank you for supporting my efforts to guide this organization to prosperity over my tenure on the Forty Acres. It’s truly been a team effort with contributions from our staff who’ve sown the seeds of great ideas and provided the strength to make them real. We have all drawn our motivation from the university students, faculty and administrators, as well as the larger community, who’ve been our raison d’etre and the champions of our efforts. We all owe a special debt of gratitude to our financial and moral supporters, which include a lineage of incredible volunteers who have served so graciously on our advisory council and the generous souls who’ve gristled us with their encouragement and charity out of a love for this great human institution.

Always a Longhorn, I will follow the rising trajectories of the UT Libraries with interest and with great pride.