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# TCU Mary Couts Burnett Library



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### TCU Mary Couts Burnett Library

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#### AS I WRITE THIS LETTER, IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY.

The sun is shining and it's warming up. As you can likely relate, this is very welcome after the year we've had. Between COVID and SnoVID it's been an eventful year, and I'm thankful we are emerging into a brighter and better future.

During the February weather event, the library suffered significant water damage due to a burst HVAC



coil in the west side attic. Fortunately the building took the brunt of the damage, with only 5% of the on-site book collection damaged by water. The university acted quickly and had Blackmon Mooring here to work on cleanup and now restoration. That portion of the building is currently closed as they continue their work. In the meantime, we are retrieving books for our patrons as they request them. We are also working with Blackmon Mooring and insurance regarding repair and/or replacement of the volumes that were impacted. Never a dull moment at the TCU Library!

In spite of the winter excitement, I'm feeling very hopeful. Several of our staff have received vaccinations; and now that Texas has opened up who can be vaccinated, I am excited at the possibility of returning to a more "normal" state in the not so distant future. I know it will be a while, but I look forward to the day when we can have a building full of students without having to wear masks.

I wonder which practices we adopted during COVID will remain in place. Though I long for in-person meetings, I have been thankful for Zoom. It's nice not to have to run to a different building for university meetings. Due to that, I've actually been a bit more efficient with my time and ultimately more productive. We also have trained our students and faculty to rely on email and chat services for reference. Will we see a decline in those statistics? We are now offering book retrieval services - perhaps this is a service we can continue in the future.

Whatever the future holds, I think we all have learned a lot about how we do things. I hope as more people get vaccinated and we start to venture out a bit more, each of us can positively reflect back on this time. And of course, once campus opens up, I hope the library is on your list of places to visit!

Tracy Hull Library Dean

## **Israel Otto Lehman Collection**



Copy of the Yalkut shimoni on the Torah shows markings in light brown ink.

Special collections recently cataloged work from the Otto Lehman collection offering a snapshot of one moment in the long and troubled history of Jewish-Christian relations.

Venice, home to a thriving Jewish community, was the undisputed capital of Hebrew printing in the early sixteenth century. By mid-century, however, the climate had changed. In 1553, the Talmud was publicly burned in Rome, an event that prompted Pope Julius (1487-1555) to intervene by suggesting that, henceforth, potentially offending texts should not be burned, but merely expurgated.

Consequently, owners of Judaica were required to hand over their collections to papal censors to have any passages deemed offensive crossed out. Censors were Jewish converts to Christianity, whose knowledge of Hebrew and Hebrew texts helped them hone in on blasphemous passages.

Our copy of the Yalkut shimoni, a homiletic commentary on the Torah, bears the marks of such an inquisitor's pen. Admittedly, our inquisitor's heart does not seem to have been in his work; he expurgated some lines (in light brown ink) on a few pages at the beginning of the work and let the rest stand.

## **RRI Exhibit: We Can, We Will**

The We Can, We Will art project is a visual exploration in communication collaboration and reconciliation. Inspired from the artist Romare Bearden, students from the School of Fine Arts, collaborated on two large cut-out pieces as they searched and engaged with imagery motifs that speak to a positive relationship with our radical and dynamic world events and history. This project was supported by TCU's Race & Reconciliation Initiative and led by art professor Dan Jian.

The Race & Reconciliation Initiative (RRI) is an academically-based, historically-focused initiative designed to investigate and document TCU's relationship with slavery, racism and the Confederacy.

This academic endeavor will span multiple years. The focus for 2020-2021 is on Black Americans and TCU's experiences with slavery, racism and the Confederacy.



Student Artists: Mason Rosal, Cam Arthur, John Elias, Amaris Gonzales, Caroline Madden, Roman Mays and Adelynn Strong

## TCU Alum Artwork Added to Library Permanent Collection

117 Hours, part of an ongoing 19-part series created by Sri Lankan artist, Eastern Hills High School art teacher and TCU Fine Arts alumnus '10 Dhananjaya "DJ" Perera, is now part of the permanent art collection at the TCU Mary Couts Burnett Library.

The work donated by Perera is a pointillism-style drawing of a Sri Lankan peacock that took 117 hours to complete. Pointillism is a painting technique that originated in the mid-1880s which applies small dots or strokes of color to a surface and when seen from a distance forms an image.

The patience and meticulous approach to the artist's thematic series reflects the overall body of works which revolve around his Sri Lankan culture.

"The series began out of a necessity to create works that contrasted the global angst and anxiety that arose as a result of the pandemic," explains Perera.

*"117 Hours* depicts a peacock which is a ubiquitous symbol of beauty and wildlife in Sri Lanka," according to Perera's artist statement. *"The title references the time—as with all the works in the series—that was spent making the painting using a stippling method. The time association highlights the patience and calmness that each work evokes, in contrast to the chaos of the global pandemic chaos during which they were drawn."* 

Perera's poignant series centers on Sri Lankan wildlife with the singular purpose of emphasizing the tactile beauty associated with each unique animal. Natural beauty, which for many populations around the world may not have been readily accissible due to the cascading curfews, social distancing and lockdown protocols that were intermittently active and inactive...and active again!

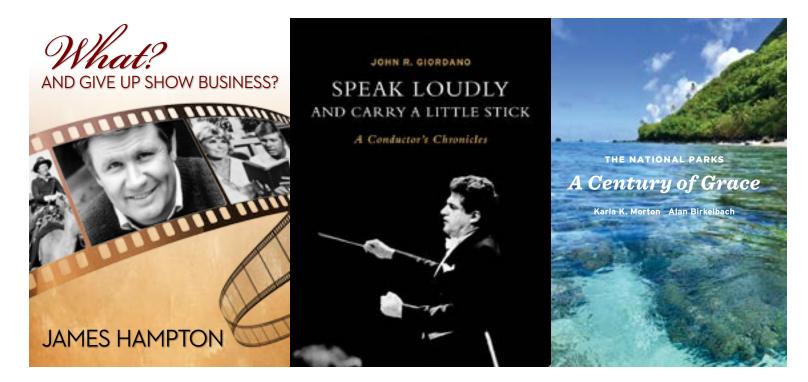
"In my culture, expressing gratitude and giving back to your school is common practice. I was taught by some legendary instructors at TCU's North Moudy on how to be a disciplined artist. Without them this accolade would only remain a dream," says Perera. "Without my parents, I would never have studied at TCU. This donated artwork is my way of saying thank you to both TCU and my beloved parents."

Learn more about DJ Perera and his artwork at www.djperera.com

"To be the first-ever Sri Lankan to graduate with a BFA degree from TCU is prideful. To be the firstever Sri Lankan artist to be included in the TCU Mary Couts Burnett Library's permanent art collection is a career-high honour."



DJ Perera



## **New Book Releases**

Looking for a great read? We are thrilled to announce the TCU Press has some wonderful new releases you might want to add to your booklist.

What? And Give Up Show Business? is the hilarious autobiography of James Hampton, who for over fifty years has been one of the most familiar faces in television and film. A wonderful slice of life in Hollywood told through the personal stories of one of its most prolific actors, this book will appeal to nostalgia buffs, classic film and television aficionados, fans of celebrity autobiographies and biographies, and people who just enjoy a good laugh and great storytelling. This enchanting memoir also includes some of the author's favorite recipes, which are woven into stories about such show business icons as Doris Day, Clint Eastwood, and Michael J. Fox. Never-before-seen photographs of Hampton and his friends, who happen to be some of the world's favorite entertainers, pepper this jewel of a tale chronicling life in La-La Land.

#### Speak Loudly and Carry a Little Stick: A Conductor's Chronicles

#### by John R. Giordano

Speak Loudly and Carry a Little Stick: A Conductor's Chronicles tells the story of the development of the FWSO and the Cliburn competition as the internationally renowned conductor John Giordano knew them. These enlightening and often humorous chronicles give readers insight into the expansion of the FWSO and the Cliburn during Giordano's tenure. Giordano's musical career and adventures carried him all over the world, from China and Russia to Amsterdam and Mexico, and gave him an opportunity to play with musical greats such as Ella Fitzgerald, Itzhak Perlman, and Tony Bennett. Through friendships with these talented artists and international figures and through his relationship with music, Giordano proves how critically important music is to our society and how music can positively impact a community.

#### The National Parks: A Century of Grace

#### by Karla K. Morton & Alan Birkelbach

Poets Karla K. Morton and Alan Birkelbach began this journey to celebrate our national parks' one hundredth anniversary, but for these two former Texas State Poets Laureate, the sojourns quickly became something greater. In their words, "As humans we have this tendency to look at a piece of land and see real estate. [But] when concrete covers all our natural spaces, not only do we lose earth's creatures, we also lose the great teacher of our souls. You cannot sit beneath trees taller than the Statue of Liberty, or gaze upon vistas untouched since their creation, without feeling the awe and wonder of what the natural world has to offer. You cannot experience such beauty without being wholly changed. Our great-great-great-grandchildren deserve these untouched gifts." This journey, illustrated with gorgeous color photos of all of America's grand national parks, is a feast for the eyes and heart. In the end, it is a plea for us to save these wonders for all future generations.



Let our expert librarians recommend your next great read. Here are a few of their favorite titles to add to your reading list.

#### Dragonsong by Anne McCaffrey

Fifteen-year-old Menolly allies with magnificent dragons in the first book in the Harper Hall trilogy, set within science fiction legend Anne McCaffrey's beloved and bestselling Dragonriders of Pern series. For centuries, the world of Pern has faced a destructive force known as Thread. But the number of magnificent dragons who have protected this world and the men and women who ride them are dwindling.

#### The Historian by Elizabeth Kostova

Breathtakingly suspenseful and beautifully written, The Historian is the story of a young woman plunged into a labyrinth where the secrets of her family's past connect to an inconceivable evil: the dark fifteenth-century reign of Vlad the Impaler and a time-defying pact that may have kept his awful work alive through the ages. The search for the truth becomes an adventure of monumental proportions, taking us from monasteries and dusty libraries to the capitals of Eastern Europe—in a feat of storytelling so rich, so hypnotic, so exciting that it has enthralled readers around the world.

#### The Eye of the World by Robert Jordan



Dragonsout

ELIZABETH

KOSTOVA

HISTORIAN

The Wheel of Time turns and Ages come and go, leaving memories that become legend. Legend fades to myth, and even myth is long forgotten when the Age that gave it birth returns again. In the Third Age, an Age of Prophecy, the World and Time themselves hang in the balance. What was, what will be, and what is, may yet fall under the Shadow. This is the first book in a 14 book series, The Wheel of Time. It's an epic fantasy that follows a group of women called Aes Sedai who channel saidar, and are searching for the Dragon Reborn, a male destined to break the world, or to save it.

### From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E. L. Konigsburg



an art history mystery. Such fun!

#### Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

The novel follows the lives of four sisters-Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy March-detailing their passage from childhood to womanhood, and is loosely based on the author and her three sisters. Little Women was an immediate commercial and critical success, and readers demanded to know more about the characters. The novel addresses three major themes: "domesticity, work, and true love," all of them interdependent and each necessary to the achievement of its heroines' individual identity.



ibrarian Picks

A pair of disgruntled siblings run away from home and secretly live in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City for an entire week. A story about resourcefulness, self-reliance and determination that even includes the solving of

# IMPACT OF THE 2021 WINTER STORM

How The Texas Winter Storm Affected the Library and TCU Students



#### PANDEMIC AFTERMATH: WE GOT A **TASTE OF NATURE'S WRATH WITH** A WHOPPER OF A WINTER STORM.

On Monday, Feb. 15, Fort Worth woke to a winter wonderland—beautiful, fluffy, white snow—with more on the way. The winter storm brought back-to-back rounds of snow and historic cold, below-freezing temperatures. These freezing temperatures prompted TCU to close the campus for the entire week.

We all know the changing weather helps winter become a special time of year, but freezing weather can create a bit of unwanted mayhem. And that is exactly what happened—the TCU campus was hit hard by the winter storm (along with the DFW area).

First comes COVID, then SnoVID... On Tuesday, Feb. 16, the director of library services James Lutz received a 2 a.m. call from campus Facilities that a coil inside an attic HVAC unit on the west side had burst. Water filled the library and was literally pouring out of the building.

In the midst of the storm, James and library dean, Tracy Hull, immediately kicked into gear and headed to the library to assess the amount of damage caused by the winter storm. They discovered that the west wing had suffered the most serious damage. A pipe had burst directly above the Music/ Media Library, with water flooding all three floors below- water ran down the stairwells and elevator shaft.

The Music/Media Library certainly took the worst hit. The offices, stacks and AV center had water standing through much of the area, as well as damage to walls and ceiling tiles. Water also made its way through the brick on the front façade, creating massive icicles. The damage, as you would expect, was considerable.

In addition, the second-floor west entry study space had standing water and some ceiling and office damage. A small portion of the Gearhart Reading Room suffered damage, specifically the old newspaper alcove and microfilm machine area. On the first floor, several study rooms, offices, the conference room and a section of book stacks were impacted.

Walking the library floor by floor "was



Water coming through the brick on the front façade created mammoth-size icicles.

exhausting and a bit shocking," said Lutz. "To see the condition the library was in, took my breath away." Hull and Lutz worked closely with campus Facilities and Blackmon Mooring to assess the damage, and to begin the cleanup process of removing the water out of the library.

"James was the best person to tackle this monumental situation," said dean Hull. "He not only mopped up buckets of water off the floor for several hours; he was also thinking about a contingency plan for staff offices and material."

Along with extracting water from the library, Blackmon Mooring also focused on dehumidification of all books and identifying which damaged books needed to be packed and moved to the refrigeration truck for conservation. This process took several weeks. Books that didn't take on water were off limits until the humidity was under control. Good news! A large portion of the books were not harmed.

pickup.

The west side remains closed for repair and is expected to open sometime this summer.

#### ADVENTUROUS STUDENTS

Despite the dangers of the winter storm, TCU students found a way to experience their first snow day on campus. Did you know the library steps can double as a ski slope?



Jimmy Pavelich sleds down the steps of the Mary Couts Burnett Library. (Photo by Ron Jenkins/Getty Images)

The TCU campus re-opened Saturday, Feb. 20, but the library remained closed for an additional week. The east side opened Friday, Feb. 28, for normal hours. Additional areas opened mid-March, and we began providing access to books that had been inaccessible. Today, we continue to retrieve books for patrons upon request for curbside



Students have bobsled races in the commons

## **PRESERVING HISTORY**

DIGITIZING THE AMON G. CARTER PAPERS



WBAP Television Production Studio, 1938

On Thursday, April 15, viewers watched a live broadcast to hear and learn about the life and legacy of Amon G. Carter, his vision for Fort Worth, the impact he made on Fort Worth, and the digitization project to get his papers online.

The TCU Mary Couts Burnett Library and UTA Library Special Collections, with financial support from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), collaborated on a project: "The Emperor of West Texas - Digitizing the Amon G. Carter Papers" to provide metadata for 34.5 linear feet of papers and 5,000 photographic negatives documenting the life of Texas businessman Amon G. Carter (1879-1955).

During the Facebook LIVE one-hour video presentation, Mary Saffell, TCU Special Collections/Archives, Brenda McClurkin, UTA Special Collections/Archives, Brian Cervantez, Assistant Dean at Tarrant County College, and author of Amon Carter: A Lone Star Life, and Texas newspaper columnist, author and playwright of Amon! The Ultimate Texan: The Amon Carter Story, Dave Lieber, shared many interesting, entertaining, colorful stories and insights into Amon Carter's life.

> To view the Facebook Live event: https://fb.watch/4W618XW7-8/

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

In the first half of the twentieth century, Amon G. Carter, Sr. was a Texas powerhouse. He was "Mr. Fort Worth" and the King of West Texas. He owned the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, the states largest newspaper, and he created one of America's first radio stations (1922) and one of the earliest television stations (1948), known today as KXAS-TV.



AA flight to Washington DC: (L to R) Ralph Pittman, Dutch Meyer, Davey O'Brien and Amon Carter, 1939

Amon Carter's hatred and competitiveness with neighboring Dallas is legendary. He supposedly despised Fort Worth's sister city so much that he carried a sack lunch to his visits there so he wouldn't have to spend any money.

In 1935, Carter acquired his first artworks by Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell. He'd been introduced to the artists' work by his good friend Will Rogers, the actor, humorist and writer. The Amon Carter Museum of Art was founded around his extensive art collection.

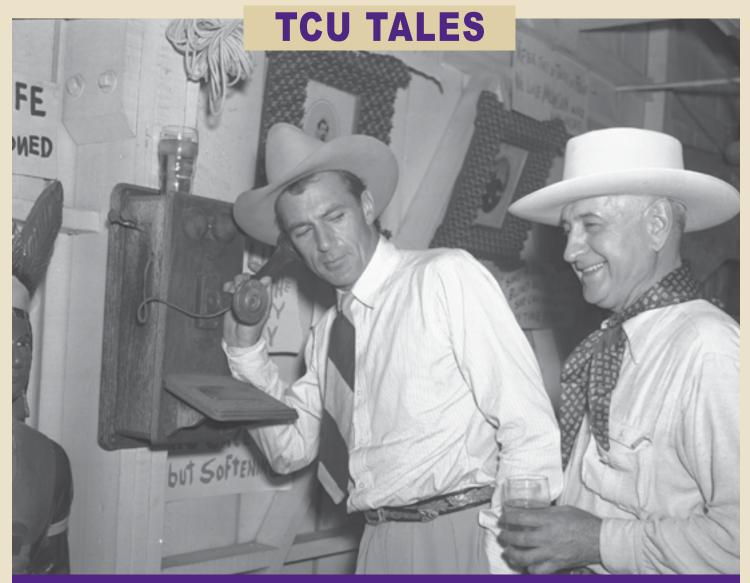
Carter was also known for his large-scale philanthropy, which was fueled by wealth from the oil business. In 1945, the Amon G. Carter Foundation was established to support cultural and educational purposes. The Amon G. Carter collection includes extraordinary and unique artifacts, such as documents on Amon Carter Jr.'s internment in a WWII German prison camp (1943-1945), handwritten lists of pledges obtained by Carter in the campaign to raise money to build the new TCU football stadium, letters from U.S. presidents, archives of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, photographs with entertainers, business leaders, politicians, friends, and more.

Flashy, often impulsive, with an eighth-grade education, Carter lured a trillion dollars' worth of business to Texas. He focused on improving living conditions for everyone.

Digitizing the Amon G. Carter collection not only expands the research capabilities across a spectrum of specialties, it preserves valuable and fragile materials for years to come.

To learn more about Amon G. Carter and a life well lived, visit amoncarter.tcu.edu/search





## AMON CARTER GUESTBOOKS

On January 5, 1949, Bob Hope signed Amon G. Carter's guestbook, only one of many VIP visitors to Fort Worth who would sign one of two guest logbooks. The signatures in these historical logbooks reflect on the friendships that had developed during Carter's life. He had two guest logbooks, one from the Fort Worth Club and one from Shady Oak Farms, spanning the years 1928 to 1955, with the last signature entered just two weeks before Carter's death in 1955.

Media mogul and Fort Worth's No. 1 booster, Amon G. Carter, did everything he possibly could to make sure visiting VIPs would leave Fort Worth with a memorable experience. One of the ways he did this was to invite them, first of all, to his Shady Oak Farm near Lake Worth for a true Texas-size celebration. If they didn't have time for a trip to the country, Carter had a personal suite at the Fort Worth Club (the social epicenter of Fort Worth), where he hosted many prestigious guests, including Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Dwight Eisenhower, Bob Hope, Gene Autry, Will Rogers (one of his intimates for more than 15 years at the time of his death), war hero J.D. Doolittle, Charles Lindbergh, lords and ladies of London, sports figures, and more. Above: Amon Carter, Sr. with Gary Cooper during filming for "The Westerner" at Shady Oak Farms (1949)

The logbooks are one of many treasures TCU's Special Collections department discovered over the last two years while working on "The Emperor of West Texas – Digitizing the Amon G. Carter Papers."

This digitization project includes papers, photographic negatives of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, and documents of Carter's own local and national activities.

Combined, the collections at TCU and UTA reveal a deep wellspring of Carter's business and personal accomplishments and his singlehanded effort to shape the national and world perception of Texas in the early twentieth century.

#### AMON G. CARTER PAPERS:

Amon Giles Carter (1879-1955) was a well-known and respected business leader in Texas and across the country. Though he is perhaps best known as a pre-eminent newspaper publisher of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, he was also very successful in the oil, cattle, and radio/television businesses. He established WBAP, Fort Worth's first radio station, which later became the first television station in the Southwest in 1948. Carter's friends and colleagues included the most prominent names in government, business, industry, and entertainment. Carter's philanthropy touched both individuals and institutions. He gave to educational institutions, hospitals, museums, churches, parks, and camps, some of which bear his name today. Carter was a major influence in the establishment of Texas Tech University and was a major contributor to Texas Christian University. He led a statewide campaign that resulted in the creation of Big Bend National



Park. An avid proponent of the airline industry, he brought the headquarters of South West Air Corporation, later known as American Airlines, to Fort Worth, and secured government funding for a local aircraft factory that is known today as Lockheed-Martin.

The Amon G. Carter Papers consist of correspondence, photographs, newspapers, scrapbooks, and artifacts. The papers document the social, cultural, and business history of Fort Worth, Texas, and the Southwest, as well as Carter's personal and business interests.

#### To view

information about the Amon Carter Collection digitization project online, visit amoncarter.tcu.edu/ research.

The logbooks will be available online soon.

HIS LOG OF 10-G IS DEDICATED TO MY FRIENDS I have nothing to sell you but while you are here. I may say something about Fort Worth "Where the West latch string. nas on the outside Come again Theer Car

Above: Amon Carter's Logbook with the first of many signatures and special messages.

Left: Amon G. Carter, Sr., distinguished Texan and American who typified throughout his years qualities of intellect and character. He was a major contributor to TCU.



Above: Bob Hope, Amon Carter, Sr. and Amon Carter, Jr. at the Fort Worth Club. Hope is writing in Carter's guest logbook.

Left: Bob Hope's written message and signature (Jan. 5, 1949)

The Special Collections department collects and preserves rare and unique materials including rare books, oral histories, university archives, historical manuscripts, maps, photographs, art and artifacts. TCU Tales are compiled from photos, papers, memorabilia and documents in the University Archives.





Renewable Energy and Wildlife Conservation

the LIBERT WALL

Wind Energy Effects on Bats -6 Carl & Adamson Street





## Celebrating Faculty Research & Creative Scholarship

The Mary Couts Burnett Library and TCU's Office of Sponsored Programs celebrated its faculty during the month of February 2021 (previously scheduled for April 2020). Scholarly works of 123 faculty members were on display in the library's Sumner Room and Reference Reading area. The display showcased the myriad contributions faculty make in the realm of scholarly publishing—artwork, journal articles, books, book chapters, music and multi-media published in 2019 and early 2020. An online display of faculty works, crafted by Senior Library Specialist Beth Callahan, was also available for viewing.

"The TCU Library values and celebrates the hard work that faculty put toward their research and creative scholarship," said Jeff Bond, scholarly communication librarian. "The display of work was an amazing breadth of scholarship generated by our wonderful faculty."

Visit the beautiful online display: https://libguides.tcu.edu/FacRes2020





Meet one of our devoted donors. We would like to recognize a generous friend who has given every year for the last 4 decades! We are deeply grateful for his unwavering, steadfast support.

#### **ALEX COTHRAN**

Alex Cothran (BS '54) has always appreciated the Library. He even worked in the library, shelving books while a student at TCU. After receiving his degree, Alex embarked on a long career in the oil and gas business. He was also the development officer for the TCU CENTURY campaign from 1968 to 1976.

While serving on the TCU CENTURY campaign, Alex became good friends with TCU's head librarian Paul Parham, who encouraged him to get involved with the library. In 1974, he became deeply committed to supporting the library, becoming a member of the Friends of the TCU Library, and serving as president from 1992 to 1994. Cothran is a life-long member of the Friends of the TCU Library, which was launched in 1972. He says over the years, the Friends' many memorable events have sustained and deepened his belief that the library is key to a great education.

When asked why he gives to the TCU Library, Cothran said,

"I support the library because it is so important to the university's teaching and research missions, but, unlike the TCU's academic units, the library doesn't have a large base of alumni support."

Since 1972, the Friends have advocated for a strong library system. Their support has allowed the Mary Couts Burnett Library to expand our holdings and improve our facilities.

Through special projects and acquisition of much-needed technology, furniture, rare books and book collections, the Friends have contributed to the success of TCU's students, faculty and community patrons. So many of the library improvements simply would not occur without their support. They make a really good library even better!





### Be A Friend

Become a Friend of the TCU Library today! Visit www.lib.tcu.edu/friends



