

WINDOWS

The Official Newsletter of the Mary Courts Burnett Library | Fall 2025



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TCU Mary Coutts Burnett Library

WINDOWS

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Letter from the dean

Dear Friends,

As we reach the close of another remarkable year, I am filled with gratitude for the steadfast support, generosity, and enthusiasm you bring to our library community. Libraries thrive when people believe in their mission, and thanks to you, our mission has never been stronger.

This year, we expanded our reach in meaningful ways — supporting students and researchers, strengthening print and digital resources, and opening our doors to conversations and collaborations that enrich our entire community. Whether it was our well-attended Special Collections Open House, a quiet moment of discovery in the stacks, learning new methods for research in a library instruction workshop, or the daily hum of students finding their way through coursework, every success was made possible by the investment of both our staff and supporters who care deeply about learning and access.



I am especially pleased with the outcome of our centennial celebrations this past year. Not only did we increase awareness of the library's collections and services and their importance, but we added some fine volumes to our Special Collections. The Friends of the TCU Library granted the library a wonderful centennial gift, which supported the purchase of two important additions to our rare book collection, both of which are highlighted in this newsletter. These two new volumes, along with the addition of the cuneiform tablets earlier this year, truly made it a banner year for the Special Collections and the library.

As we look toward the year ahead, I am excited for the opportunities before us: strengthening our collections, expanding community partnerships, and continuing to innovate in ways that meet the evolving needs of our users. With your continued support, I'm confident we will keep building a library that is inclusive, dynamic, and inspiring.

Warm wishes,

Tracy L. Hull
Dean of the TCU Library

TREASURES REVEALED



Special Collections Director Mary Saffell explains the 1632 manuscript *The Use of the Order of Carthusians* at the Special Collections Open House

In October, Special Collections opened its doors for a memorable evening during our Open House event, welcoming colleagues, Friends of the Library, and members of the TCU community for a taste of treasures housed in our vault. What a night! The event was a resounding success, marked by an impressive turnout and an energizing atmosphere.

Guests had the unique opportunity to explore historical, one-of-a-kind items from our archives and rare book collection, leaving with a renewed appreciation for the remarkable materials we preserve.



Highlights from the evening included:

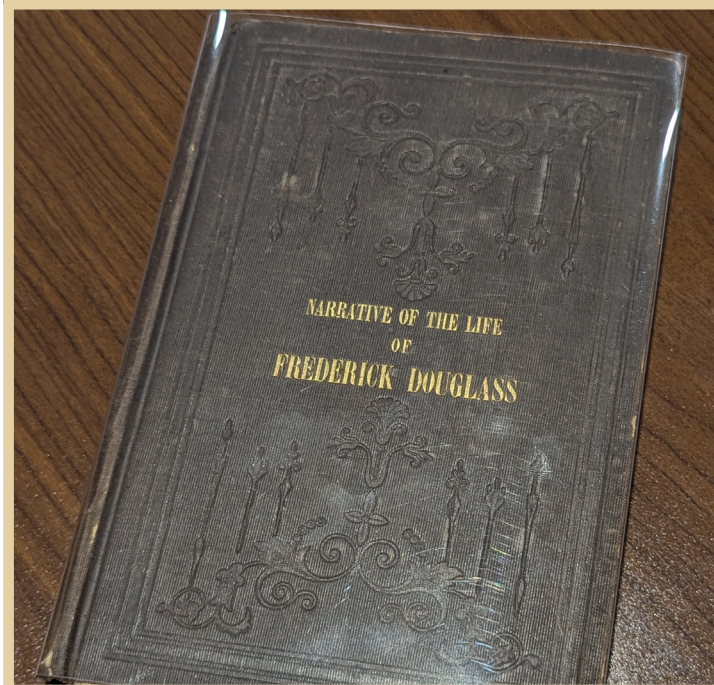
- A first edition of *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
- *The Use of the Order of Carthusians*, a Gradual on parchment with illuminations, including the Litany of the Saints, ca. 1632 – affectionately known as *The Gradual*
- Art by Andy Warhol
- Selections from the Amon Carter Collection, Jim Wright Collection, Ms. Baird's Collection, and the Varley Pop-up Book Collection
- Archival items from TCU's early history, dating back to the Thorp Spring era

Library staff were stationed throughout to provide context, share stories, and answer questions about the materials on display. Their expertise helped illuminate the many facets of the department's work — from preservation and research to curation and community engagement.



The Open House offered a rare behind-the-scenes look at the extraordinary resources housed within Special Collections. Reflecting on the evening, we are reminded that these collections are just not merely historical artifacts; they are living resources that spark curiosity, foster learning, and strengthen our sense of community. As Special Collections continues to grow as a hub for discovery, we look forward to sharing even more of the rich history and treasures the TCU Library has to offer.

New Special Collections Acquisitions



In celebration of the Mary Couts Burnett Library centennial, the Friends of the Library have made a generous \$50,000 gift to fund the acquisition of two remarkable additions to our rare book collection: a first edition of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1845) and a first edition of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* (1900).

“These important works not only enhance our academic resources,” said Tracy Hull, Dean of the Library, “but also strengthen the library’s role as a vital center for scholarship and discovery. More importantly, these titles will benefit students, faculty, researchers and generations to come.”

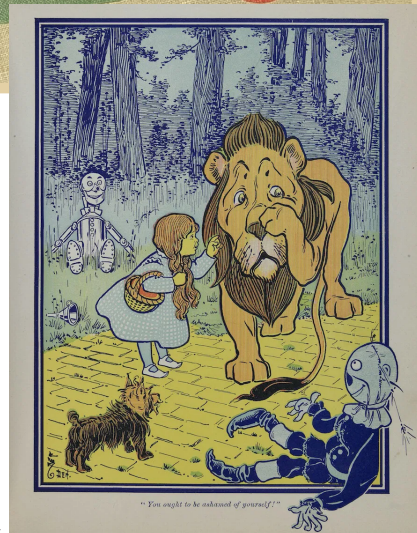
The first edition of *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave* is a cornerstone of American literature and history. Published in 1845, it is Douglass’s first autobiography, written just seven years after his escape from slavery. A memoir and discourse on slavery and abolition that offers Douglass’s powerful account of his journey from slavery to freedom. Bound in its original brown cloth, this edition captures the immediacy of his voice and the urgency of the abolitionist cause.

The first edition of *The Wizard of Oz*, published in 1900, represents a landmark in American children’s literature.

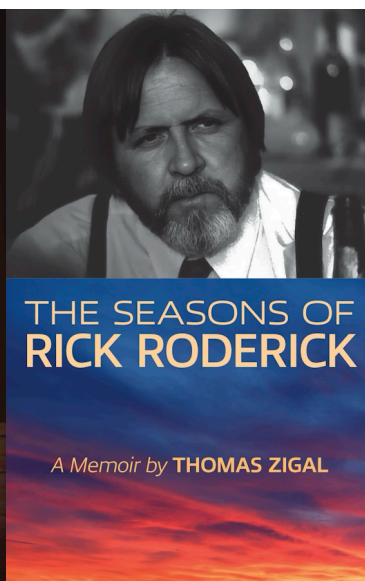
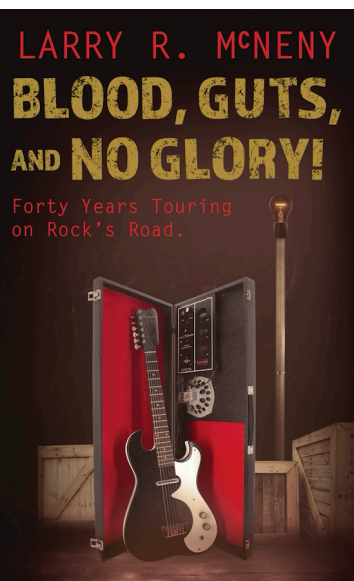
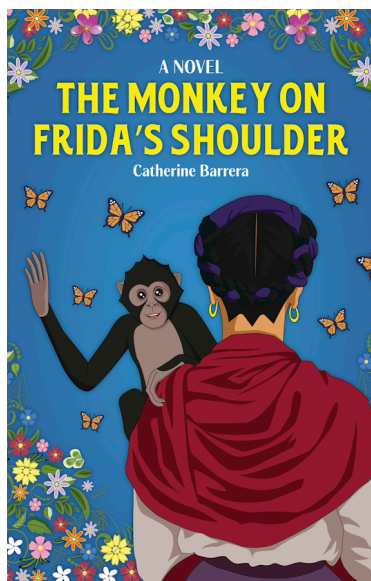
Author L. Frank Baum and illustrator W. W. Denslow envisioned an elaborate production

that pushed the boundaries of publishing

at the time. This edition features color-printed plates and unique design elements that reflect the story’s central theme of perception where silver shoes instead of ruby slippers carry Dorothy home, and the Emerald City’s vibrant green color is revealed to be the illusion of tinted goggles.



These acquisitions support the library’s mission to preserve cultural heritage and provide access to primary sources that shape our understanding of the past. We are deeply grateful to the Friends for their vision and support in making these treasures available to the TCU community.



New Releases

TCU Press has new releases coming Spring 2026 you might want to add to your book list.

As the TCU Press emerges from a season of strong releases and telltale achievements, the Spring 2026 list is shaping up to offer something for every reader. From poetry and memoir to historical fiction and artful nonfiction, each title reflects the ingenuity and regional spirit that define TCU Press's mission to publish work that matters. Here's a preview of forthcoming titles for Spring 2026:

The Monkey on Frida's Shoulder by Catherine Barrera

An imaginative retelling of the life of Frida Kahlo, told through the eyes of her house pet, Nat, a talking spider monkey with a taste for linguistics, haute couture, and detective novels. After fleeing the destruction of his native jungle, the orphaned monkey arrives in early 20th-century Mexico City, where he forms an unlikely bond with spirited young Frida Kahlo. Together they roam the city streets, their mischief tinged with rebellion, as Nat pledges loyalty to Frida through devastating accidents, ideological battles and her tempestuous marriage to Diego Rivera. Blending magical realism, absurdism, and Mexican history, Catherine Barrera's debut novel re-imagines one of the most iconic figures of the 20th century from an utterly original perspective.

Blood, Guts, and No Glory! by Larry R. McNeny

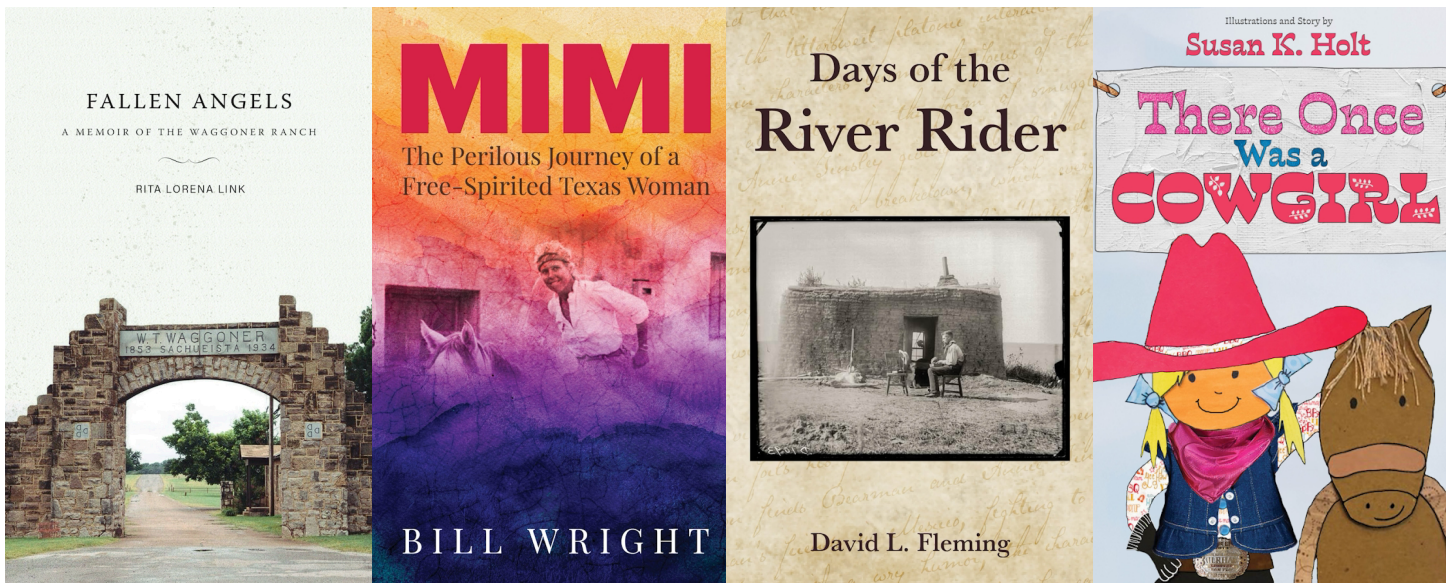
A raw, behind-the-scenes look at chasing rock 'n' roll dreams in the 1960s and 1970s. McNeny began as a teenage musician in Dallas, Texas, building a regional band that shared stages with legends like The Troggs, Mitch Ryder, Iron Butterfly and The Who. But when stardom slipped away and his bandmates scattered, McNeny discovered his true calling: the business side of music. Part memoir, part music history, *Blood, Guts, and No Glory!* captures the grit, heartbreak, and unexpected turns of a life lived at the heart of rock 'n' roll.

The Seasons of Rick Roderick by Thomas Zikal

This book explores the remarkable life of a West Texas — born philosopher Rick Roderick, who rose to fame in the early 1990s as one of America's most beloved philosophy professors. Known for his dynamic lectures recorded by The Teaching Company, Roderick captivated audiences nationwide with his wit, humor, and ability to make complex ideas accessible. Admirers included cultural icons such as George Lucas and U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch. But behind the brilliance was a man shaped by a difficult Texas childhood, struggles with anxiety and depression, and the devastating loss of a loved one. Part biography, part memoir, *The Seasons of Rick Roderick* offers a bittersweet portrait of a charismatic professor whose teaching and intellect inspired thousands.

Paper America: New & Selected Poems by Emmy Pérez

This collection gathers the poetic vision of Texas Poet Laureate Emmy Pérez, a voice rooted in the landscapes and communities of the Texas-Mexico border. Pérez's poems confront the realities of immigration, border walls, cultural invisibility, and violence, while celebrating resilience, motherhood, and the enduring ties of family and heritage.



Fallen Angels by Rita Lorena Link

In this unforgettable memoir of Rita Lorena Link recounts her childhood on storied Waggoner Ranch — a 500,000-acre Texas estate steeped in legend. At age three, Rita moved to the ranch with her mother and formed a deep bond with her stepfather, ranch owner Albert “Buster” Wharton. But when his death sparked a bitter legal battle that ended in eviction, the only home she had ever known slipped away. A vivid chronicle of both carefree joys and darker truths, *Fallen Angels* captures the extravagance, eccentricity, and high-stakes intrigue of one of Texas’s most iconic ranches.

Mimi: The Perilous Journey of a Free-Spirited Texas Woman by Bill Wright

The extraordinary true story of a Texas debutante who lived a life few could imagine. A niece of Texas Senator John Tower, Mimi’s journey takes her from privilege and tragedy to the dangerous heart of the Mexican drug trade. A gripping story of reinvention, survival, and resilience, *Mimi* blends Texas history, border intrigue, and the complexities of a fearless woman’s life. It is both a cautionary tale and a celebration of strength in the face of peril.

Days of the River Riders by David L. Fleming

A powerful blend of historical fiction and classic western storytelling, set against the stark beauty of Texas’ Big Bend country in 1943. Told through vivid journal entries that reveal the inner battles of its protagonist, Bearman, *Days of the River Rider* offers readers a deeply character-driven western that balances gritty action with moments of tenderness. Perfect for fans of *Yellowstone: 1923* and *1883*; this novel will appeal to readers of historical fiction, westerns, and literary fiction, particularly those interested in the Southwest, World War II–era Texas, and Rio Grande border history.

There Once Was a Cowgirl by Susan K. Holt

A fun twist on the classic *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly* — this time starring a cowgirl with a Texas-sized appetite and for fair food! It all begins with some cake, but soon she’s gobbling up corndogs, chili chips, cider, and more in a laugh-out-loud chain reaction. With catchy rhymes, a familiar cumulative structure, and eye-catching art, *There Once Was a Cowgirl* is a flavorful celebration of fairs, food and fun in Texas. It’s a read-aloud kids will want to savor again and again.

More Than A Place To Study

**IT'S A HUB FOR
SUCCESS, INNOVATION
AND DISCOVERY**

We take pride in being a central hub for students — a space that's truly unique on campus. Horned Frog parents can feel confident knowing their students have access to a space that's more than just a library. It's a vital part of their academic and personal success.

It's no surprise the TCU Mary Couets Burnett Library has been nationally recognized, ranked No. 10 for Best College Library in 2026 by *The Princeton Review*. This honor highlights the essential role the library plays in the lives of TCU students.

In an era of instant information, the library continues to offer something irreplaceable: a space where knowledge is not only free and accessible, but transformative. It's more than just a collection of books — it's a gateway to discovery, a refuge for deep thinking, and a foundation for future breakthroughs.

Whether students are seasoned Horned Frogs or brand new to campus, the library offers an extensive array of resources, expert support, and innovative tools designed to help them thrive.

What makes the TCU Library a top spot for students?

EXPERT SUPPORT

Forget the stereotype — our librarians are research experts and true academic partners. From finding a single article to helping tackle research projects, they're always ready to help.

Each research librarian specializes in a specific academic discipline, such as Chemistry, Business, Nursing, or Education and they know the best sources and strategies to guide students. They also work closely with faculty to acquire materials that align with their class curriculum, ultimately making database searches more fruitful.

SPACES FOR EVERY STUDY STYLE

Whether students prefer quiet reflection or collaborative work, the library has a space for them. From quiet zones and private study nooks to reservable group study rooms, the library supports every learning style. "We've created a variety of study spaces throughout the library that meet the different needs of different learning styles," said Tracy Hull, Dean of the Library.

INNOVATION IN ACTION

One of the most exciting areas in the library is the Fab Lab, located on the first floor. This creative space is a favorite destination for both academic and personal projects. The Fab Lab features:

- 3D printers
- A laser engraver
- An embroidery machine
- A large-scale plotter

The Fab Lab empowers students to explore hands-on



Students study in the quiet section on the first floor of the library.

learning, collaboration, and entrepreneurship. From building prototypes to creating custom gifts or printing research posters, it's a space where ideas come to life.

MUSIC & MEDIA LIBRARY

Tucked away on the third floor, the Music & Media Library offers specialized materials, including scores, recordings, and software which are crucial for research, performance and creative work. It also fosters community and inspiration, housing the archives of the School of Music (dating back to 1949) and the Archives of the Van Cliburn Piano Competition Foundation.

PRESERVING HISTORY

The library's Special Collections houses rare and extraordinary historical materials — from Texas history and university archives to a Shakespeare quarto and a first edition of Jane Austen. Collections include the Amon G. Carter papers, Jim Wright Papers and the William Luther Lewis Rare Book Collection, some of which has been digitized and made available online. Our expert staff is committed to assisting with research, teaching, and collaboration in an environment that encourages exploration and creativity.

At the heart of everything we do is our belief that a library is more than a building, it's a place of learning, creativity and connection. We continually work to enhance our collections, expand access, and meet the evolving needs of the TCU community.

If you're researching, working on creative projects, exploring history or simply seeking a quiet place to think — the TCU Library is the place to be.

TCU'S NOTABLE 2026 PRINCETON REVIEW RANKINGS!

TCU is Ranked

- #1 Happiest Students
- #2 Best Quality of Life
- #4 Most Beautiful Campus
- #5 Athletic Facilities
- #6 Best College Dorms
- #10 Best College Library



PRESERVING THE GAME

A Printed Tradition: TCU Football Programs Across the Decades

For more than a century, TCU football programs have captured the proud traditions, evolving aesthetics, and enduring spirit of Horned Frog athletics. Picture yourself back in those days gone by — ticket in hand, and a crisp game day program tucked under your arm. More than just a schedule of players and plays, those little booklets were keepsakes, souvenirs of Saturday afternoons spent cheering from the bleachers or listening to the roar echo across campus.

Each cover design, photograph, and printed word reflected its era of trends in graphic design, changes in TCU's identity, and the ever-growing pride of the Horned Frog community. From the

bold typography of the early years to the dynamic imagery of modern times, the evolution of these programs tells a story. Page by page, these small but mighty booklets have chronicled the story of TCU football: moments of triumph, heartbreak, and unwavering purple pride.

A LEGACY TAKES ROOT

It all began in 1896, when TCU first took the field. Just a year later, the “Horned Frog” name was officially adopted, appearing in the school's first yearbook in 1897. Back then, programs were little more than a folded sheet with simple rosters and maybe a few stats, but even then, they carried something

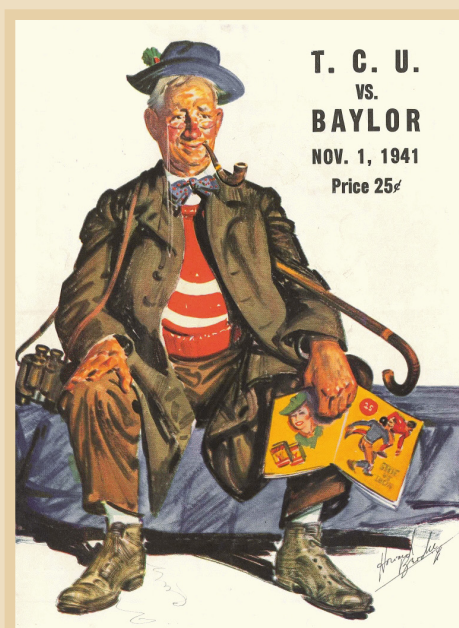
special: pride. As college football gained traction across America in the early twentieth century, those early programs evolved, giving fans a way to connect to their team in print.

A GOLDEN ERA

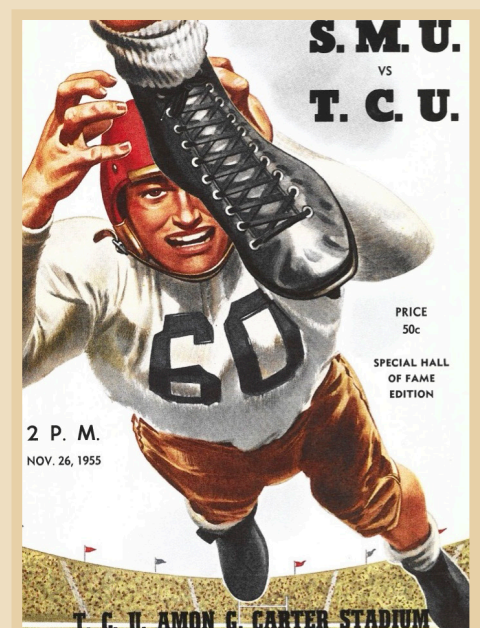
The 1930s were TCU's golden age. Under the leadership of Coach Dutch Meyer and with legends like Sammy Baugh and Davey O'Brien, the Frogs captured two national championships (1935 and 1938). Programs from this era are among the most cherished artifacts in TCU's athletic history, featuring bold covers, vintage fonts and celebratory imagery. These publications not only commemorated victories but



1934



1941



1955

also mirrored the cultural optimism of the time.

RIVALRIES AND TRADITION

In 1923, TCU helped found the Southwest Conference, and for more than 70 years, those game day programs chronicled epic rivalries with Baylor, SMU and Texas A&M. Fans could flip through pages filled with photos, stories and stats, and maybe a few nostalgic ads from Fort Worth businesses cheering

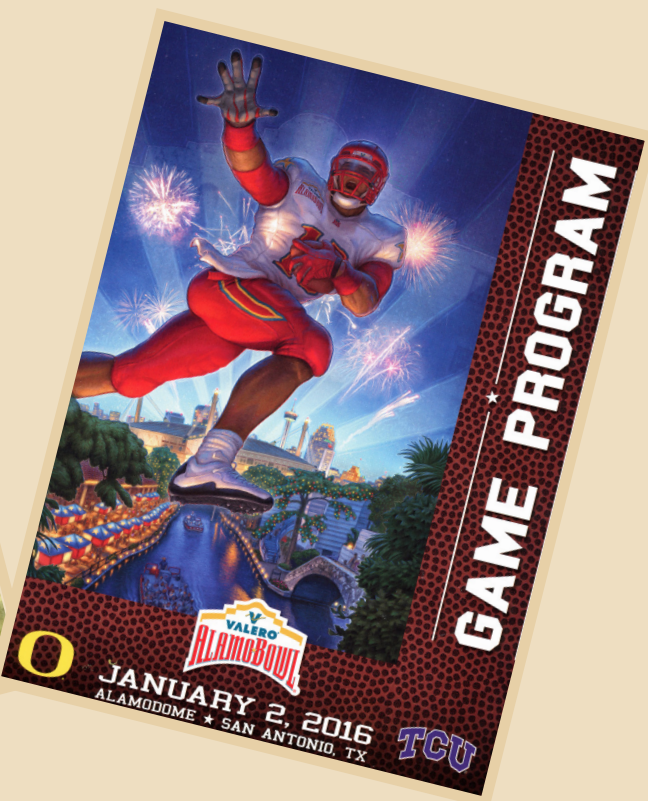
on the team. From the 1940s through the 1980s, these programs were part of every Saturday ritual, folded neatly into back pockets and passed between generations.

EVOLVING THROUGH THE YEARS

Over time, the look and feel of the programs grew along with the game. By the mid-twentieth century, covers burst into color and photographs replaced hand-drawn sketches. In the

1950s, a game day program might have cost less than a dollar, a small investment for fans eager to own a piece of the game-day experience. Today, those same programs are collector's treasures, rich with nostalgia and Horned Frog history.

From the early days on dusty fields to the roar of Amon G. Carter Stadium, TCU's story continues to unfold page by page, game by game and season by season.



Above Left: Hand-sketched football game-day program from 1960. TCU defeated Texas Tech 21–7. The Horned Frogs finished the season 4–4–2 overall and 3–3–1 in the Southwest Conference under head coach Abe Martin.

Above Right: Glossy, picturesque program from the 2016 Valero Alamo Bowl. The game was a memorable triple-overtime contest, ultimately won by TCU, 47–41, under head coach Gary Patterson.

Left: Vivid, full-color cover featuring two standout quarterbacks for the Dec. 31, 2022, Fiesta Bowl. One of the most memorable College Football Playoff games in history. No. 3 TCU triumphed over No. 2 Michigan, 51–45, earning a spot in the National Championship under head coach Sonny Dykes.

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.

The Friends Welcome Six New Board Members



The Library is proud to welcome six new members to the Friends of the Library Board of Directors: Shannon Belden, Lara Bradshaw, Mariana Davies, Joni Heinzelmann, Debby Jennings and Stephanie Klein.

The Friends play a vital role in supporting the mission of the Mary Coats Burnett Library by advocating for library resources, promoting academic excellence and fostering a love of learning through events, outreach and fundraising efforts. Meet our newest board members:

Shannon Belden '10 is the Assistant Director for the Center for Academic Performance at UNT Health Fort Worth, where she oversees tutoring, writing support and student workshops. With a background in recruitment, marketing, writing, editing, and academic libraries, she brings a well-rounded perspective to her role. Shannon holds a master's in linguistics from UTA and a bachelor's in English and theatre from TCU. A lifelong book lover and daughter of a university librarian, Shannon is excited to serve on the Friends of the Library Board.

Lara Bradshaw '97 is a children's librarian at Lily B. Clayton Elementary with over 28 years experience in early childhood education and children's literature. She is passionate about developing literacy programs and fostering lifelong learning. Lara holds a master's in library science from Texas Woman's University and a bachelor's in education from TCU. A believer in the transformative power of libraries, she is honored to

serve on the board. She enjoys reading, gardening, attending TCU sporting events and traveling with her husband, Greg.

Mariana Davies '09 is the Upper School Academic Support Coordinator at Fort Worth Country Day. With a decade of experience in special education, she is passionate about accessibility, student advocacy, and inclusive practices. She holds a master's in education from Texas Woman's University and a bachelor's from TCU. Mariana enjoys reading, crafting, gardening, and spending time with her husband and two daughters. She's honored to support her community through service on the board.

Joni Heinzelmann '84 is a retired Fort Worth Country Day School educator who taught 3rd and 4th grade for 25 years. A TCU alumna, she holds degrees in marketing and elementary education. Since retiring in 2022, she has continued tutoring and substitute teaching at Country Day, and volunteers at The Warm Place. Married to fellow Horned Frog Matt for 40 years, Joni is a proud mom and grandmother who enjoys pilates, pickleball, golf and cheering on TCU athletics.

Debby Jennings is a Librarian Emerita from Fort Worth Country Day School where she served as Head Librarian for 40 years. She holds a MLS from UNT and also taught children's literature and school librarianship there. In retirement, she stays active with her garden club, helps archive school records and enjoys traveling with her husband, Gary. A longtime Fort Worth resident, Debby is the mother of two daughters, including a TCU alum, and grandmother to three.

Stephanie Klein is a community volunteer and philanthropist, originally from Boston, and now a proud Fort Worth resident. A passionate book lover and proud mom of four daughters, she has fully embraced life in Texas and become an enthusiastic Horned Frog supporter. Committed to service, Stephanie is excited to bring her energy and dedication to the Friends of the Library Board.



Holiday Cards for Our Military

Sharing gratitude, cheer and connection with service members across the globe.

This November, the TCU Library proudly marked its third year participating in *10,000 for the Troops*, an initiative dedicated to sending handwritten holiday cards to U.S. service members stationed around the globe, including those spending the holidays at bases right here in Texas. The program brings together students, faculty and staff in a meaningful effort to share gratitude, encouragement and connection with those serving far from home.

To support the initiative, the library hosted a card-writing and decorating station where members of the TCU community could craft heartfelt messages for our brave service members.



In addition to promoting the event through campus partnerships and social media, library staff helped collect, sort, and prepare the cards for delivery. By the end of the campaign, the library had gathered hundreds of thoughtful messages filled with holiday cheer, appreciation, and reminders that the Horned Frog family is thinking of our troops during this special season.

The TCU Library is honored to take part in this holiday card campaign and looks forward to continuing its support in the years ahead. Small gestures truly make a big impact, and thanks to this collective effort, thousands of service members will feel a little closer to home this holiday season.

*One TCU student captured the spirit perfectly —
 “Thank you so much for everything you do!
 You are so appreciated and loved.
 Have the best Christmas ever!”*

Friends of the TCU Library

One of the library's greatest strengths is its network of passionate advocates — the Friends of the TCU Library. Since 1972, this dedicated group has championed a strong and dynamic library system, supporting the expansion of resources, services and facilities. Their generosity has contributed more than \$1,000,000 to library materials and services, ensuring excellence for generations to come.

The Friends' mission is to promote awareness of the library's vital role in the University's growth and development. Members enjoy a variety of exclusive benefits, including:

- Borrowing privileges
- Invitations to special events
- A subscription to the library's newsletter

Additional benefits, such as access to select databases, vary by membership level. Becoming a Friend means making a meaningful and lasting impact on the library's future. To learn more about the Friends or to join, [visit library.tcu.edu/friends](http://library.tcu.edu/friends).

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Joni Heinzelmann '84
Debby Jennings
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Mary Kay Varley '89

***Life Members**

AT A GLANCE



**NATIONAL HIGH FIVE
A LIBRARIAN DAY
NOVEMBER 18**

