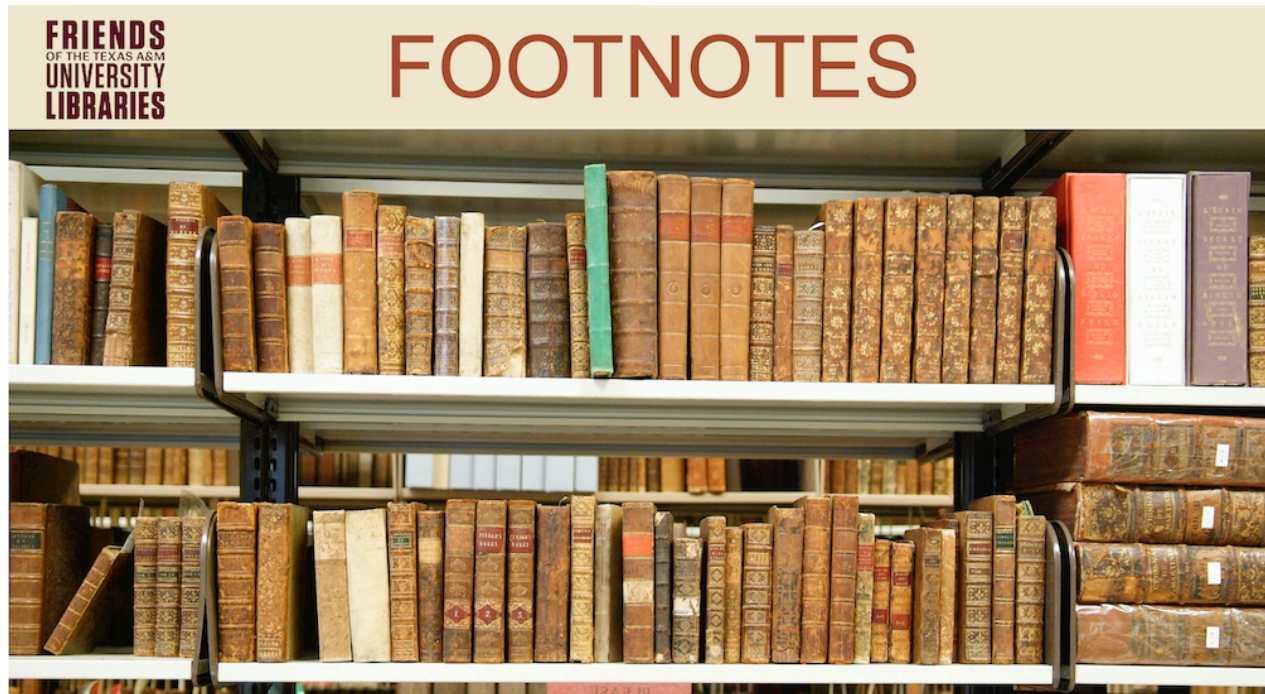


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SUBJECT: 2025 Fall Footnotes



Study Pods From Proof of Concept to Reality

Aggieland's Sterling C. Evans Library has been regarded by many as the campus headquarters for intellectual exploration and collaboration. After locating printed or digital resources, Aggie scholars head to customized workstations to consult with librarians or spacious study rooms to collaborate with classmates; however, a study carrel is the destination for much-needed isolation, which minimizes distractions and maximizes focus and productivity. For those who prefer studying in carrels, the library visit seemingly does not get any better.

But in Aggieland, everything gets better, including our private study space options, which now include new study pods funded by the Friends of the Texas A&M Libraries and the Hamill Foundation.

This begs the question of what distinguishes pods from carrels? First, they differ in design. While carrels are usually wooden and designed with three walls creating a workspace that might be connected to others, pods are completely enclosed and standalone constructions with four sound-absorbing panels and a sealed door.

As a result, the reduction in or elimination of outside noise makes pods a makeshift office where students may conduct Zoom calls or



interviews. By contrast, carrels are not designed to eliminate noise from neighboring students, which limits privacy. Also, the pod's layout permits occupants to rotate 90 degrees, an impossibility in study carrels, so pods have unmatched functionality.

Even the portability of these two study spaces is not the same. Study carrel furniture might not be as easy to relocate as a modular pod, which arrives assembled.

Since the end of 2024, the West Campus Library has piloted two types of pods: the Hush Hybrid and the OFS Room. Despite the pods' growing popularity, study carrels are still in demand, which evinces that students enjoy options in design and functionality.

Because of the success of the two study pods located in the West Campus Library, three more study pods have been purchased and installed in the Evans Library, near the poetry circle, to continue monitoring the use of these study tools by the students.

Variety remains the spice of learning in libraries with the financial support of the Friends of the Texas A&M Libraries and the Hamill Foundation.



Leisure Library on the T.S. Kennedy

In July 2024, a proposal for the creation of the Friends Presidential Award was submitted to and approved by the Friends of the Texas A&M University Libraries (Friends) Executive Committee. This award involves an annual commitment of \$2,500 to be used toward a single project benefitting the Texas A&M University Libraries, in recognition of the service of the out-going President of the Friends. The specific project to receive the funds would be selected by the out-going President in conjunction with the Libraries.

The inaugural Friends Presidential Award was announced by 2024-2025 outgoing Friends President, Peggy Nolan, at the Friends Annual Meeting and luncheon held on April 26, 2025. The award funding went to support the "leisure library" project on the Texas A&M Maritime Academy's training vessel, the T.S. Kennedy. The leisure library is also supported by the Galveston Aggie Moms.

The award funding provided reading materials, board games and additional items for the use of the Texas A&M Maritime Academy cadets who serve on the T. S. Kennedy. In addition, some University Libraries' staff and family members, delivered some of the materials for the leisure library and helped get it set up. Upon the arrival of the new training ship, NSMV Lone Star State, all of the materials will be re-located to the new ship.

This award is a wonderful representation of the manner in which the Friends supports the University Libraries, strengthens the use of print collections, and provides students with greater learning opportunities.



Sink Into Aggieland's History

You know many campus landmarks -- the Academic Building, the Quad, the MSC, and countless others. Did you know that Aggieland once had it's very own Sink Building?

Thanks to a Preserve, Acquire, Conserve, and Educate (P.A.C.E.) grant provided by the Friends of the TAMU Libraries, Audrey Hendrick '24 solved the Sink Building mystery. Hendrick used an impressive combination of historical photography, GPS coordinates, and sheer creativity to identify and place the Sink Building as part of the Historic Aggieland project. The project aims to map Texas A&M University's history through historical aerial views of campus development to provide 'then and now' transition photos, and deliver an interactive campus map with embedded photos showing current and former buildings on campus. Because the building map is a huge portion of the project, Hendrick began focusing on identifying buildings and their locations.

Want to know the Sink Building's history, where it was, and what's standing in its place now? [Click here](#) to view Hendrick's presentation and enjoy the historical glimpse into some of our most interesting campus history.



2025 Scholarship and Longevity Awards

On May 13 the Library hosted their annual Staff Appreciation Event at the Sterling C. Evans Library. The Friends President, Linda Hartman, participated in the program to present recognition categories funded by our organization. This event closes the libraries on campus so all staff can attend, enjoy a fajita buffet luncheon and participate in a competitively spirited Trivia competition.

The Friends of the Texas A&M University (TAMU) Libraries fund the Longevity Awards and a Student Opportunity Scholarship. The Longevity Awards, a total Friends contribution of nearly \$5,000, recognizes staff members for their years of service. The service periods start at 10 years of service and continue in five-year increments up to 45 years of service. This year The Friends funded recognition of 23 staff members.

The Friends of the TAMU Libraries also provides a \$500 Opportunity Scholarship awarded to one staff or student employee at any of the TAMU Libraries accepted or enrolled in an accredited library science program. The recipient for the 2025 school year is Ms. Marisol Mareno.

The Friends of the TAMU Libraries' funding of these Library Staff recognition tools is very important to the Library leadership and staff at all levels. It is also an excellent opportunity to build awareness of The Friends and our support for the Texas A&M libraries.



Friends of the Texas A&M University Libraries

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