



The Bridwell Quarterly

Bridwell Library, Perkins School of Theology

Issue 4

Summer 2019

Announcements

Sept. 4, 2019: Indian Literature in Conversation with the Contemporary World, Perkins Prothro Great Hall from 1:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Click to [R.S.V.P.](#)

Rabbi Levi A. Olan Radio Sermon Series
Lectures at Temple Emanu-El by
Tim Binkley, Anthony Elia, and Shira Lander
October 22, October 29, November 5,
November 12, and November 19

Online Exhibits at Bridwell Library

[A Summer Musical Celebration](#)

[Bygone Summers](#)

[Fowler Family Papers](#)

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The Bridwell Quarterly: Welcome

Anthony J. Elia, Director of Bridwell Library and J.S. Bridwell Foundation Endowed Librarian

Dear Friends,

The fourth and current issue completes our first annual cycle of publishing *The Bridwell Quarterly*. We are pleased to have been able to connect with our colleagues and friends from both the university and the broader community of theological institutions around the country, who have been continual supporters and friends of Bridwell. We want to encourage the ongoing generosity of these and many others who see our library and institution as both a community and a home. I also want to thank those who have given constructive and gracious feedback on our projects, writings, publications, and outreach, helping us in our efforts to be the best stewards of both our esteemed collections and our entire institution.

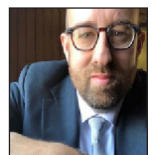
Some of you may have noticed that our color palette has changed during each issue—blue, red, green, and yellow. These colors have been chosen with care and deliberation, based on seasonal reflections and hues, but also on the university's color standards. As with many things in this world, colors have distinct and varied symbolic meanings. So too do the images that we present. It has also been our goal to consider and select images for our cover, which will best reflect the season that we are in and present our community with an expression of the direction that we are headed. In this issue, we spent time exploring the campus and grounds around Bridwell as it was in the process of being “quarantined” and “prepped” for renovation. Blue tarps hung on metal fences, wood planks leaned on trees for protection, and various other separative apparatuses were set up around the building during the last couple months. Pavements and sidewalks were blasted and chiseled away, beams removed, and concrete and rebar were extricated from a whole host of building spaces. The sound and the dust and the erratic pounding noises have been disruptive. Yet, the image we selected for the front cover is one that looks upward, above, and beyond, toward the time and place when and where we will have a new (or renewed) library space. The feel of the updated Bridwell will hopefully be something amenable to most patrons. The completion of the new first floor reference room, the recarpetted spaces, additional lighting, and fresh paint show how well these processes can be done.

Also in a time of change and renewal we have passages and experiences of staff. Our long-time reference and digital services librarian, David Schmersal, has moved on since our last Quarterly, taking a position in Austin, Texas. He has graciously shared with us a fine essay reflecting on his time at Bridwell, his colleagues, and his family. We are supremely grateful for the time, devotion, and expertise that David has given to us, and especially the comradery that he has graced us with over the last years. Several Bridwell staff members traveled to Vancouver in June to attend the annual American Theological Library Association (ATLA) meeting, which was hosted in the Canadian city. The dazzling geography and culture of British Columbia were evident before landing in our planes. Much of the experience of being in Vancouver was about both the experience of being in another country and the experience of the indigenous cultures, which have often been underprivileged and disregarded. This was a renewal of understanding and appreciation, which many of us took to heart and reconsidered for our own work, research, and lives.

So with this, these and other topics you're invited to enjoy. We hope that you continue to read and visit us—even during times when we're on temporary hiatus from our building, as occurred when concern for safety and health required our adoption of limited hours this past summer. We are glad that you are part of the Bridwell community and look forward to your next visit.

Thank you again for your continued support.

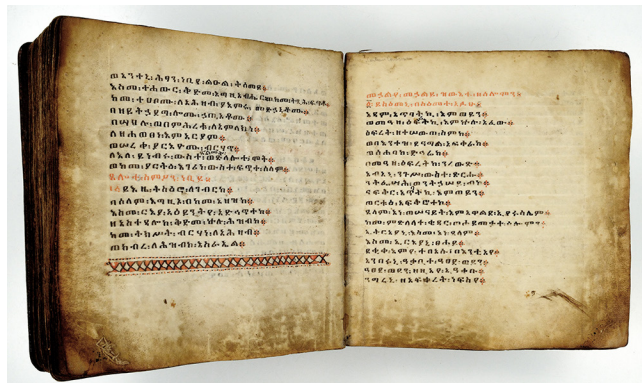
Anthony





Spring Semester Ethiopic Lectures at Bridwell Successfully Conclude

Dr. Doug Gropp, a distinguished local scholar of Semitic philology, who has spent the last few decades teaching classical Ethiopic completed a lecture series in the language to the SMU community at Bridwell Library this May. The series, which aimed to expose members of the community to the ancient liturgical language of Ethiopia, especially those interested in the theological, biblical, and linguistic components, was a successful undertaking that saw nearly twenty participants at the height of the seminar. The complexity of the Ethiopic language, especially its extensive alphabetic structure, proved to be daunting, but many persisted and were rewarded with the continuous hard work that both Dr. Gropp and the participants themselves undertook. The richness of the language and the layering of its poetic timbre afforded many great and productive conversations throughout the spring semester. Bridwell is grateful for Dr. Gropp's willingness to have shared his pedagogical gifts with us, and we wish him all the best in his newest pursuits in teaching and research.



Ethiopic manuscript at Bridwell

Bridwell Director Attends Wenderoth Tribute in Chicago



Christine Wenderoth

On Friday, April 26th, Anthony J. Elia, Director of Bridwell Library, was invited to participate in a panel discussion on the topic of "The Teaching Library" at the JKM Library (Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and McCormick Theological Seminary) in Chicago. The event was a celebration of the career of Rev. Dr. Christine Wenderoth, Director of the JKM Library and Associate Professor of Ministry, who retired at the end of June 2019. Participants on the panel, also included Kris Veldheer of Catholic Theological Union (CTU); Thomas Haverly, formerly Public Services Librarian at Colgate Rochester Crozer; professor Bob Cathey of McCormick Theological Seminary; Barry Hopkins, Public Services Librarian at JKM; and LSTC professor Mark Swanson. The group spoke broadly about the importance and value of library staff, as well as the necessity of teaching from libraries, which benefits all areas of theological education. Dr. Wenderoth enjoyed a long and distinguished career at JKM, where she oversaw multiple projects, renovations, reorganizations, courses, and creative innovations in the theological libraries community. Her friends and colleagues thank her for her steadfast support and encouragement, and wish her a happy, healthy, and restful retirement.

*Photo of Christine Wenderoth by Tricia Koning, with permission from LSTC



Bridwell Staff Attends 2019 ATLA Conference in Vancouver, Canada

Anthony J. Elia, Director

During the second week of June, several members of the Bridwell Library staff attended the annual conference of the American Theological Library Association (ATLA). This year it took place in Vancouver, British Columbia, in Canada—a magnificently modern and broadly diverse urban center on the Pacific coast. As one of our Canadian hosts noted, “for Canada, it isn’t the *Pacific Northwest* of the country, but rather the *Southwest*.” Indeed, perception and context is everything. On the following page of this issue, you will read the detailed account of Jane Elder’s experience at the conference, which touches upon the role of native cultures. In fact, she and our former colleague David Schmearsal presented an informative session on the ideas of indigenous culture in research. The overarching themes of the conference were very much a topical encounter with First Nations’ cultures, the meaning and recognition of indigenous peoplehood and society, and the understanding of mutual respect among those indigenous groups and the government of Canada. It was even made clear from the outset of the conference that the local Musqueam people still had territorial rights over the land called Vancouver, and a tribal representative greeted and welcomed the whole plenary session of ATLA conference-goers. In light of these themes, my own presentation dealt with and addressed the question of theological education’s role in global education and how the long narrative of borders and boundaries has been inculcated into popular thinking since the rise of European nationalism, which forced boundaries



and borders on much of the world through colonial enterprise. The conference produced many good meetings, panels, and visits to research facilities. These included the John Richard Allison Library (Regent College) and the Rare Books and Special Collections at the Commons, both at the University of British Columbia. There were many productive conversations among colleagues and friends, and we all look forward to next year in Detroit.





ATLA Conference: Staff Perspectives

Jane Elder, Reference Librarian

This year the annual conference for the American Theological Library Association took place in Vancouver, British Columbia. The location prompted my former colleague, David Schmearsal, and me to present a session on resources and best practices for undertaking research on religion and Native American/First Nations peoples. Neither David nor I are experts in this subject area by any means, but we led a fruitful conversation among two dozen people from North America, Asia, and Australia, centered on new trends in the scholarship of indigenous peoples, the ethics and language surrounding this topic, and on the mindfulness that we all, as theological librarians, feel it is important to encourage researchers to pursue. Because of the impact of the research services that librarians provide, both within their own constituencies and globally through the creation of online subject guides, we are uniquely positioned to introduce methods and vocabulary that remain sensitive to the concerns of indigenous peoples today, as well as to their ancestors and heritage.

Our presentation topic meshed nicely with one of the conference's plenary speakers, Sarah Dupont, the Aboriginal Engagement Librarian at the University of British Columbia. Dupont, who is of Métis decent, spoke about Canada's present climate as the government pursues efforts toward reconciliation with First Nations people. She offered advice to librarians concerning the delicate intersection between researchers and the researched, and how to navigate that intersection sensitively. She directed us to publications and programs that can assist us as we support scholarly and theological endeavors. Among these resources were the Vancouver School of Theology's Indigenous Studies Summer School, Gregory Younging's book, *The Elements of Indigenous Style: a Guide to Writing By and About Indigenous Peoples* (2018), and the ecumenical social

justice programs and literature sponsored by KAIROS Canada.

Religion and theology, as they pertain to Native Americans and First Nations, are huge topics, fraught with pitfalls for the unwary: theological, political, economic, etc. As we continue to teach ourselves about the religious and theological issues facing indigenous peoples, we hope to become wise as serpents. As we help guide the research of our colleagues at Perkins School of Theology conscientiously and with mindfulness, we strive to be gentle as doves.





On Comings and Goings

David Schmearsal, Former Reference and Digital Services Librarian



Being the Reference and Digital Services Librarian at Bridwell Library for six years has been one of the most formative and enjoyable experiences of my life, so far anyway, but it almost never happened. When I saw the advertisement for the position, I was happily employed as an adult and young adult services librarian for Pima County Public Library in Tucson, Arizona and was not actively looking for other positions. I have a Masters of Theological Studies from Regent College in Vancouver, BC, and had earned my MLS with the intention of eventually becoming a theological librarian, which is why I was already a member of the American Theological Library Association and occasionally glanced at the job opening notices on their website. On the other hand, I was also a single dad and very much appreciated the help my in-laws offered in taking care of my son, Isaac, who was five at the time. I was planning to stay in Tucson, at least for the time being. Then I saw the advertisement for a job at Bridwell, and a friend encouraged me to apply. It was the day before Thanksgiving, and the initial search was set to close in two days. I quickly dusted off my CV, wrote a cover letter, and sent them off, presuming nothing would come of it. Then, to my surprise, I was asked to participate in a phone interview, followed by an invitation to come for an on-campus interview. I put together a presentation, bought a new suit, and got on a plane to DFW. Roberta Schaafsma, the director, picked me up and gave me a quick tour of campus before dropping me off at the hotel. It was January and sleeting, quite a change from Tucson, but I was struck by how green and lovely SMU's campus was. That night at the requisite interview dinner, the waiter brought me an entrée different from the one I had ordered. I recalled

one of my MLS professors telling us that the dinner is part of the interview, so I thought maybe I was being tested (I have since been assured this was not the case) and I cheerfully ate salmon instead of pasta.

The rest of the interview went well, including a brief discussion about lunar zebras, and I was offered my dream job several years before I expected to even begin looking. My time here has only confirmed my impression that the Almighty had crafted a nearly perfect position for me, then graciously plopped me down into it ('cause "plopping" is very much a part of the Almighty's M.O.). There has been a learning curve (for example, deciphering that "presiding elder in full connection" means something different from "local pastor" and that when someone asks whether we have copies of *The Daily Christian Advocate* I need to ask, "which one?"). There have been challenges, like when Dean Parker asked for sources about Black-White bi-racial transgender clergy or Jack Levison wanted every citation or allusion to Isaiah 63:9-12 in all early Christian literature (I enjoyed that one quite a lot). I have deepened my love for biblical research and become an evangelist for Accordance Bible Software. I have gained a profound appreciation for the theology of John Wesley. I have had the privilege of working with and walking beside several students on their journeys through seminary, from trying to allay the inevitable sense of overwhelming terror when beginning something new and life-changing, to helping them hone their research and writing skills, to offering suggestions on how one might phrase something a little more clearly, to watching newly minted Perkins graduates receive their degrees and go out into the world.





My work as a theological librarian at Bridwell has been more than just a job; it is a vocation. Hence, it would take something fairly significant to compel me to consider leaving. Or, someone. I met Kallie Green at Bridwell. She was making up for a missed session of Dr. Clark-Soles' library skills project, and when I was sharing some of the tools with her she got very excited about the Greek, which she was taking at the time. Don't tell Dr. Heller, but I love Greek, too, (I could sooner choose a favorite book than a favorite biblical language) so meeting someone who was as excited about Greek as I am caught my attention. Thereafter she started coming by to ask me about citation questions, but often challenged my answers, wanting to know why *Chicago Manual of Style* specifies using commas in footnotes. I was challenged, frustrated, and intrigued. I still am. After a few months, I worked up the courage to ask her out – in Greek (one of the nerdiest things I have ever done, and that's saying something). Thus our journey began. Kallie, Isaac, and I have shared family dinners, gone backpacking, endured long road trips, and enjoyed family story time via Facetime. As we have sought to honor our respective callings (she is a soon-to-be ordained United Methodist Elder in full-connection with the Rio-Texas Annual Conference – I think I got that right), we have had to live in separate cities, and sometimes try to go our separate ways (thankfully, that never stuck). We have been there for each other through hard times and in joyful times, but could never seem to get the logistics to work out, until now.

I confess that when I first saw the job opening at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary's Stitt Library, I hesitated to act on it. I felt I had a very nice,

secure, mostly fulfilling life in Dallas, with a house, a fulfilling job, a church I love, and an established routine. Isaac was bound for junior high and had already joined the school band. I pondered as I walked to work and had resolved to just let the opportunity go by when I realized that perhaps this was yet another of the Almighty's mysterious acts. Maybe this was God's way of resolving our long-standing impasse between wanting to be together as a family and wanting to honor our callings. Maybe some of the salutary Wesleyan emphasis on grace has seeped in. Anyway, I applied, was invited to two interviews, and have accepted a position as Access and Instruction Librarian at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. In the next few weeks, I will be moving, starting a new job, and getting married. I am terrified, but mostly excited to begin a new adventure and start a new life. More than anything, I feel grateful. Grateful for this opportunity, but also grateful for the time I have had at



Bridwell, for the colleagues I have enjoyed working alongside, especially Jane Elder, with whom I have shared an office, Monty Python quotes, and an oddly amusing predilection to invoke Godwin's law (we once made a bet that we could go a whole week without mentioning Hitler or Nazis; we had to try again the next week). I have enjoyed the feeling of working in the same building as folios from a Gutenberg Bible and across the street from a Rodin. I have worked with amazing scholars and students. Mostly, I am grateful for the way my time at Bridwell has formed and confirmed me in my calling as a theological librarian, hoping and trusting that as I continue to grow into my vocation other students and scholars and colleagues will have reason to be grateful for Bridwell as well, even if they are not fully aware of it.



Bridwellian Dogs

Sally Hoover, ILL & Reserves

French poet Anatole France wrote “until one has loved an animal a part of one’s soul remains unawakened.” As a part of Perkins School of Theology and through its many resources, Bridwell Library helps to awaken and develop souls. Sometimes those library resources include dogs. True, we don’t check dogs out as we would a book, but many dogs have touched the souls of those who study and work at Bridwell.

Service dogs working with students sometimes visit Bridwell. A few years ago, Dylan, a beautiful Doberman, came in with his blind student owner. Currently, Solomon, a black labradoodle, comes in with a disabled student. Lauren, a yellow lab, is the companion of a student who travels in a wheelchair. Circulation and reference staff are always glad to see these dogs and usually ask to pet them if there is time. This gives the dogs a short break from their work and gives us the joy of petting a dog. Hidden in the reference office are treats for these working dogs when they come to Bridwell with their students.

Many of us working at Bridwell have canine family members. Our dogs may not be physically present in the library (at least most of the time) but sharing the dogs’ pictures and telling their stories brings us together. New dogs, old dogs, and remembered dogs are part of our lives. Current Bridwell canine family members include Annie, Buddy, Echo, Ethan, Freddy, Ladybug, Maggie, Mickey, Stormy, and Winston. In all shapes, sizes, and ages these dogs bring us love, companionship, and joy. They provide us with soul food.

The organization, “Pet Partners Therapy Dogs” states on their website that, “Numerous studies have shown that when people take just a few moments to pet an animal, their stress is reduced.” For this reason, we invited Pet Partners to bring therapy dogs to Bridwell during the spring finals week. On May

13th the therapy dogs, Skylar, a Westie, and Toby, a Goldendoodle, spent two hours in the reference office sharing their doggie affection with the students and staff members who came to visit. Skylar loved being petted and receiving attention. Toby, a much bigger boy than Skylar, also loved the petting and attention. He showed off his tricks of shaking hands and giving high-fives—plus his special trick of balancing a stuffed toy on his nose until his owner signaled for him to drop it. In all, thirty-one people came to meet and pet the two dogs, not counting those who visited with the dogs more than once! Both humans and canines enjoyed themselves. Plans to have therapy dogs visit us again are in the works for the end of the semester next fall.

Some of us working at Bridwell have dreamed of having an official Bridwell therapy dog to relieve stress, to offer doggie affection, and to help awaken and develop the souls of those involved in work and study at Bridwell. Until that day comes, we will continue to enjoy our canine family members and the occasional doggie visitor at Bridwell Library.





Pet Partners: Above Left: Skylar / Above Right: Pet Partners, Toby

Bridwell Library Staff Pets: Below, Page 8: Annie / Below Left: Mickey / Below Right: Freddie



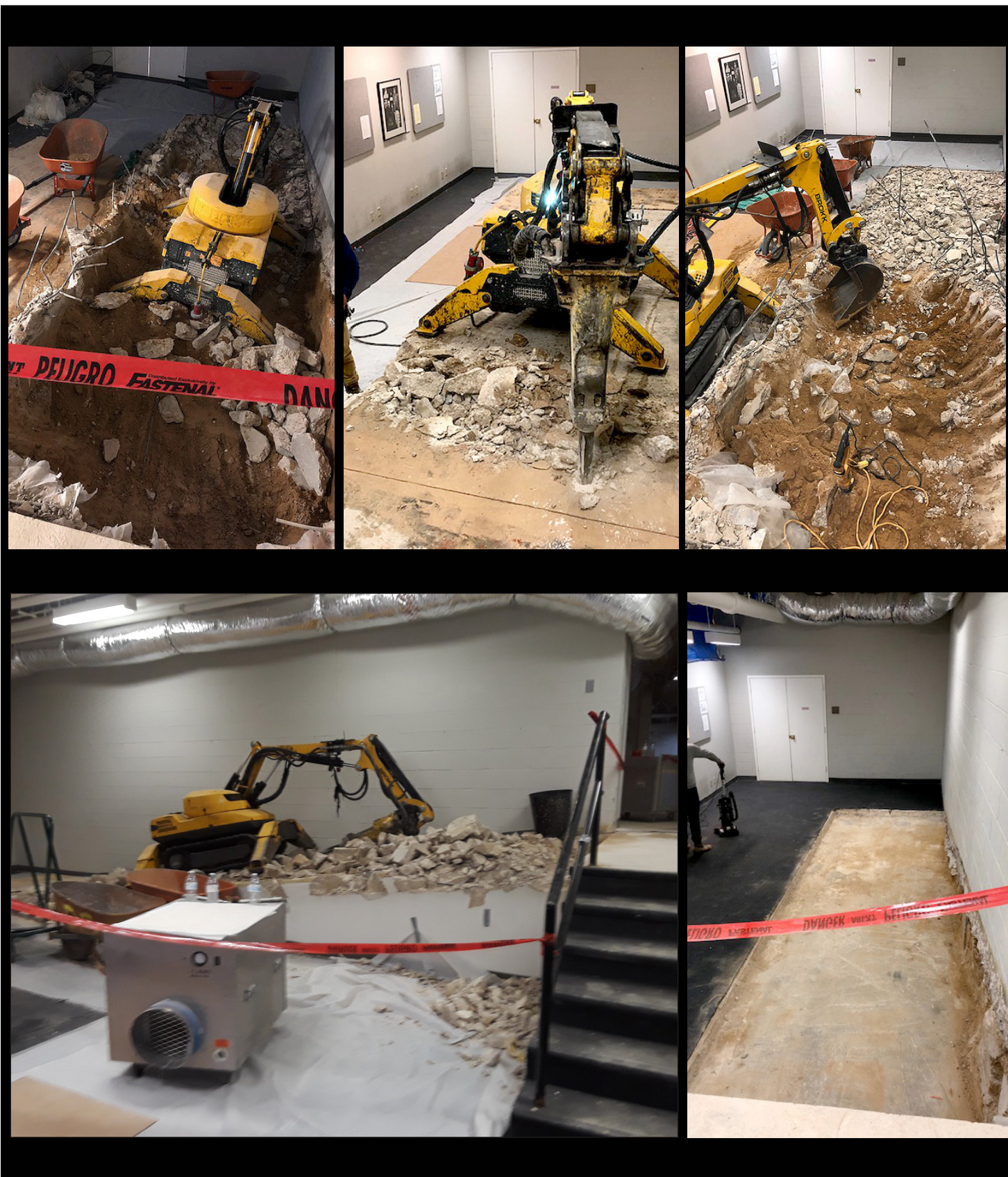


Bridwell Library Renovation





Bridwell Library Renovation



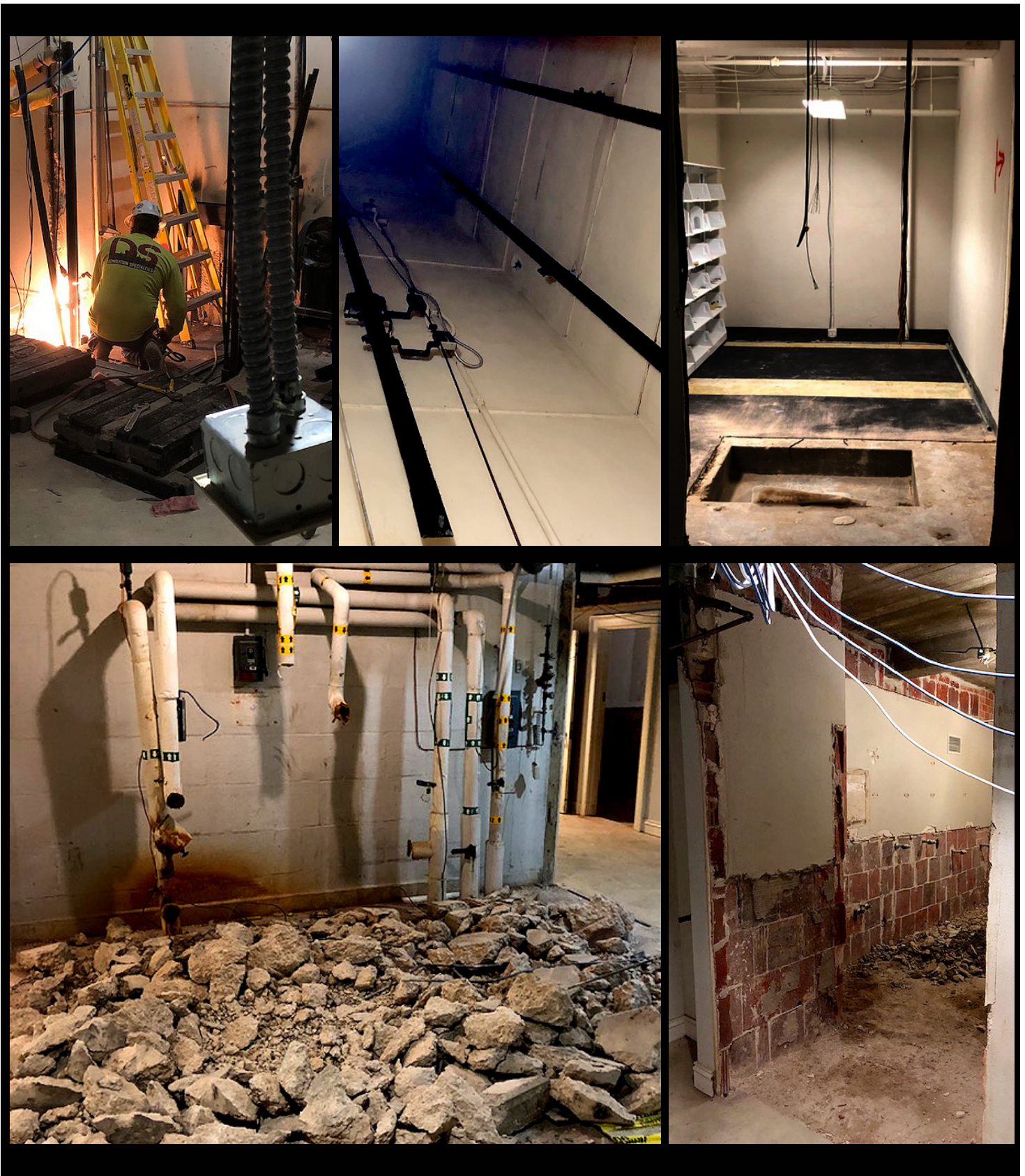


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