

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

Spring 2023

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHT

UCO's Oral History Collection

Documenting the history of UCO is one of the responsibilities of the UCO Archives and Special Collections. We collect president's papers, organizational records (staff and student), photographs, memorabilia and more to preserve the institution's history.

In addition to collecting the physical items that preserve institutional memory, we have also collected oral histories from alumni, administrators, faculty, students and staff. These oral histories round out the story of our past. They capture individual perspectives, unique life experiences and can provide information where there is no written source.

Beginning in 1984, the university's first archivist, Mary Bond, began slowly collecting taped interviews with former UCO students. She understood the importance of capturing these stories in telling a more complete history of the university.

Over the next decade, Bond recorded 61 interviews with graduates like C.J. Spearman who served six years in the Oklahoma House of Representatives. As a state legislator, Spearman introduced the legislation transforming Central State College into Central State University.



Daphne Wright and Ruby Heiner

Outstanding athlete, graduate, and Coach, Dale Hamilton, was another interview Bond captured. He took the Bronchos to many championships. Yes, Hamilton Field House bears his name cementing his place in Central's athletic history.

While some of the other interviews are not with such illustrious characters as Spearman and Hamilton, they do shed light on the times and influences of the past. They can illustrate how things have changed or stayed the same.

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“**The picture ended up in the paper and while that doesn't seem scandalous today, in 1932 girls just didn't wear shorts publicly.**”

UCO's Oral History Collection Continued...

An interview with 1935 graduate Ruby (Hiner) McAdams documents how in the 1930s students could get kicked out of school for going to a public dance or smoking a cigarette. Ruby shared a story of being highlighted in a Daily Oklahoman article about an athletic event happening on campus. Ruby and her friend Daphne were in their cheerleading shorts practicing when the photographer asked to snap their picture. The picture ended up in the paper, and while that doesn't seem scandalous today, in 1932, girls just didn't wear shorts publicly.

When the picture was published, the Associated Press picked it up and it went around the globe. Ruby and her friend got letters from all over the world, as far away as China. When the school president caught wind of it, Ruby and her friend were almost kicked out of school. Their teacher Emma Plunkett came to the rescue, making the president understand it wasn't their fault and they were allowed to stay in school.

In 2001, the Archives & Special Collections partnered with

the Department of History and Geography to conduct an official oral history project. Led by Patricia Loughlin the interviews that were captured under her direction were part of a larger UCO history project that included the publication of an updated history of the university. Loughlin's book, "Building Traditions, Educating Generations: A History of the University of Central Oklahoma," was published in 2007, and included information from these interviews.

All these oral interviews make up the UCO Oral History Collection. Taken individually, these interviews reflect the careers and interests of the interviewees; viewed collectively they constitute a narrative of the development of the university over time. As such, they form an invaluable part of the historical record of the university.

Today, we continue to collect these valuable histories. If you would like to participate, please visit our [oral history page](#). For more information about these materials and other university history, visit the Archives & Special Collections. [About Us - Archives & Special Collections - Lib-Guides at University of Central Oklahoma Library \(uco.edu\)](#).

LIBRARY REPORT

In March, a virtual forum was held by Scott Carlson, senior writer at the Chronicles of Higher Education, with a panel of library deans and an executive director. The session, "In Defense of Libraries," discussed the ways libraries are advocating for their importance as central hubs for community, learning and connection on campus. It was an insightful and encouraging session.

Overall, the panel felt their libraries have been nimble and responsive to the changing needs of students, faculty and staff. They have retained their place as a central hub for connection, community, digital resources, and scholarship. Dean of libraries at Florida State University, Gale Estchmaier, believes libraries help facilitate independent learning that no other campus space or digital medium can support, leading to a more skilled workforce.

Summing it up nicely Todd Carpenter, executive director of the National Information Standards Organization said, "One of the key strengths of the library and library community is in discernment. As more and more content is digitally available and open-access, finding the information you need can take time and resources, and information professionals can provide that support to the community." By the end of the session, five key takeaways were revealed.

First: The role of the library is as a center for independent learning, scholarship and community. Second: Establishing relationships with faculty is key to maintaining the relevance of libraries for multiple reasons. Third: Libraries are by no means "dusty" or "dimly lit," in fact, they have evolved into vibrant and vital hubs for student and faculty resources and study. Fourth: While the digital generation of students is used to technology, faculty incorrectly assume students will find the materials they need. That's when librarians are essential. Fifth: Digital resources and AI technologies like ChatGPT should not be viewed as a threat. Instead, they present an opportunity to position library professionals as sources of truth backed by resources and research.



*Nicole Willard,
Senior Dir. Chambers Library*

At the Chambers Library, we are purposefully trying to integrate ourselves in the academic journey every place we can. Making ourselves more visible and relevant will help foster this pursuit. Partnering with an information professional can lead to better outcomes for students and faculty.



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Library Summer Hours June 1-July 30

Monday - Thursday
7:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday

7:30 a.m. - Noon
Saturday

10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday

Noon - 9 p.m.

Max Chambers Library

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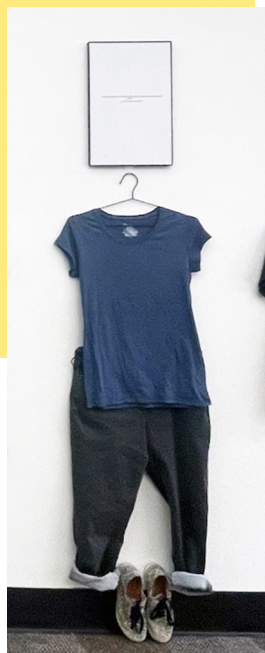
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WHAT WERE YOU WEARING?



In April, the Library partnered with Project Speak, the YWCA, and the Office of Student Accountability and Conflict Resolution to present the exhibit *What Where You Wearing?* The exhibit opening was held April 5, and was well attended. The exhibit brought awareness and support for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

After welcomes and acknowledgments by Nicole Willard, senior director at the library, Project Speak Coordinator, Ashley Melson,

Center for Counseling and Well-Being, started the program by reading the poem "What I Was Wearing," by Mary Simmerling. This poem inspired the original exhibit, which debuted at the University of Arkansas in 2014. The exhibit recreates the outfits victims describe they were wearing when they were sexually assaulted. Each outfit is accompanied by an anonymous story. The aim of the exhibit is to challenge the idea that provocative clothing is the cause of sexual assault and the notion that sexual assault can be prevented by the victim alone.

In addition, Melson shared Project Speak's mission to develop a campus culture that fosters healthy relationships through knowledge and awareness. Following Melson, was Kenzi Lockwood, who serves as assistant director of Sexual Assault Victim's Advocacy, for the YWCA. She shared an array of services offered by the YMCA to help primary and secondary survivors of sexual assault regain control over their lives. From responding to calls on their 24-hour, crisis hotline, to hospital advocacy and follow-up counseling,

the YWCA is meeting the needs of hundreds of sexual assault survivors each year. If you or someone you know has experienced sexual assault, please call (405) 943-7273.

Concluding the program was David Ball, program coordinator for Equal Opportunity, in the Office of Student Accountability and Conflict Resolution. He explained, through his office, UCO is dedicated to maintaining an inclusive campus by investigating, hearing and addressing any acts of discrimination, sexual misconduct and or harassment. Faculty, Staff or students who feel they have witnessed or experienced discrimination, sexual misconduct and/or harassment are encouraged to reach out to the [Office of Equal Opportunity](#) for support and guidance.

After the program, refreshments were served sponsored by Friends of the Library. The YWCA, Project Speak and Peer Health Leaders sponsored tables providing more information and resources. Students could make a bracelet at the Peer Health Leaders table to demonstrate their support for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.



LIBRARY SELFIE *Contest*

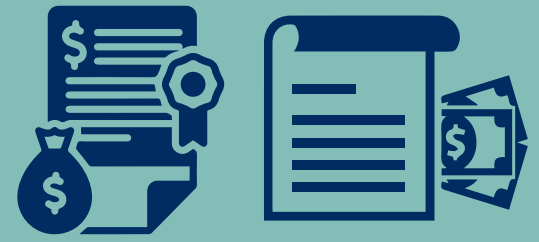


The Friends of the Library sponsored a student selfie contest this semester. In an effort to promote new library services in the Nigh University Center, students were asked to take a creative selfie at the Tech Express on the second floor just south of the food court. The library began offering research and return services there in the fall of 2022.

There were several good submissions, but ultimately the judges selected a selfie by Anjali Chakkissary, for her creativity in labeling all the great services offered at the Tech Express. Congratulations to Anjali, who won a \$500 UCO tuition waiver. Thank you to all those who participated in the library's contest.

The Tech Express is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., offering an array of services. A library information expert is at the Tech Express, Monday-Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., to assist students and faculty with any research needs they may have. They are there for your convenience so stop by and get the help you need.

Faculty Book and Materials Grant



While we were late this year in announcing the opening of this important grant, we still had some great submissions. The two winners this year, were Assistant Professor, Edward Collins, from the Donna Nigh Department of Advanced Professional and Special Services and Assistant Professor, Breana Downey, Ph.D., from the Psychology Department.

Gaps identified by the winners were on very timely topics. Dr. Collins' proposal pointed out that, "Artificial Intelligence, A.I. and chatbot platforms are dramatically impacting and influencing public education in an astonishing manner." The addition of titles, in these areas, will assist our students in understanding the basics of these applications to the educational process.

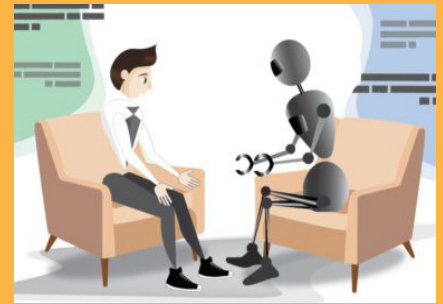
Breana Downey's proposal on the discipline of sport psychology has the potential to benefit many departments, the largest being the Psychology Department. However, as Dr. Downey highlighted, "The content of these books expands to benefit other departments at UCO, such as kinesiology, physical education and adult education. Looking beyond the classroom, UCO has 14 division II athletic teams whose athletes and coaches could also benefit from the proposed materials."

Since the grants are being awarded later in the year than usual, we will work over the summer to acquire these titles. In fall 2023, a reception will be held to honor and congratulate the winners of the 2023 Faculty Book & Materials Grant. Thank you to all the faculty who submitted proposals. Through the knowledge of UCO's expert faculty, the library is able to keep the collections current and relevant.

WINNERS

EDWARD COLLINS

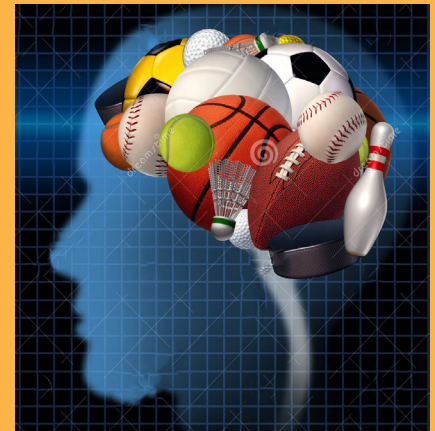
Ph.D. Asst. Prof. Donna Nigh
Department of Advanced Professional and Special Services



Titles on AI & Chatbots

Breana Downey

Ph.D. Asst. Prof. of Psychology



Titles on Sport Psychology

SPOTLIGHT INNOVATION STUDIO

This semester has been a busy one in the Innovation Studio (IS) on the first floor of the Chambers Library. The usage of equipment is up 13% over the same period last academic year. Karl Siewert, emerging and immersive technology librarian, credits the reduction in COVID concerns, as well as efforts by staff to get word out to the campus community about the great resources the IS has to offer.

Other measures to increase usage of the IS included, Siewert reaching out to other maker spaces on campus to explore possible collaborations. This included the School of Engineering, whose new facility had its grand opening at the beginning of April. Siewert, also surveyed the faculty requesting feedback on new devices and tools they would like to see added to the IS, as well as how the Studio is perceived on campus

Siewert knows that engaging the faculty in projects is one of the best ways to make the IS more visible. A semester-long collaboration with Rebecca Quoss-Moore, Ph.D., assistant professor of English, resulted in a thought-provoking exhibit at the 2023 Liberal Art Symposium entitled, "Queenship: Histories of Appropriation, Representation, and Response." Quoss-Moore's students selected items from the collections in the British Museum and used IS resources to create representations or likenesses of the items.

Other projects that UCO faculty, staff, and students have created using IS resources:

- Posters for academic and professional conferences;
- Maps for tabletop role-playing games;
- A mock-up magazine cover;
- A replacement part for a broken music stand;
- Functional prototypes for mechanical design;
- Models of human skeletal structures.

At the IS, we prioritize academic use of resources but, we are always pleased to be able to print things that are just for fun. In the words of a student who requested a 3D print of a cartoon slug, "I have no need for this object besides the fact that it will bring me joy, and also I pay for this studio with my tuition so I kinda deserve it." We could not agree more!

The new academic year will bring additional new equipment and some exciting programming. The results of the above-mentioned survey will also be shared in a future newsletter. Watch this space for coming information.



3D printed replica of a tea set in the British Museum

AROUND THE LIBRARY

Medication Take Back Day

The Center for Counseling and Well-being held a Medication Take Back event, on April 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the south sidewalk of the library. The event was very successful with an estimated 10-12 lbs. of total medication collected. It was a great location that was easily accessed by individuals on campus by car and walk-up. Look for this event again next year.



Student Employee Appreciation Week

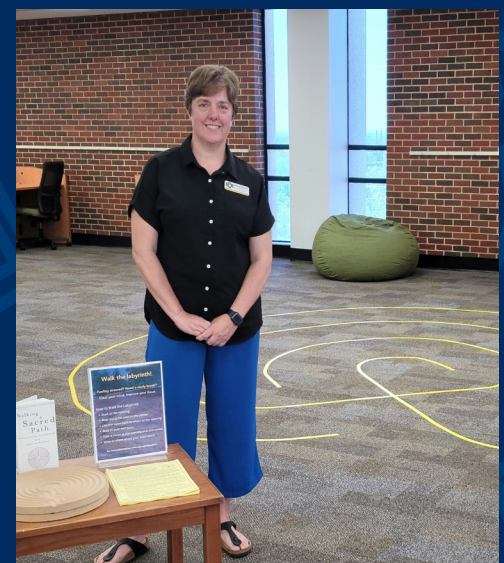
April 10-14, was Student Worker Appreciation Week. The library celebrated by sponsoring goodie bags for all 25 library student employees. The bags were full of sweet and savory treats and UCO swag. A note of thanks was attached acknowledging their efforts in helping the library to run efficiently.

Dead and Finals Week

A full slate of activities was planned for dead and finals week. Some new collaborations brought additional activities for the spring semester. Enrollment Services was in the library on Friday, May 5, helping students with enrollment and checking holds. Partnering with Kinesiology and Health Studies, a labyrinth on the 4th floor was provided for students who needed a meditative break from their studies.

Also providing stress relief, the Center for Counseling and Well-being provided stress kits, tea, art therapy and Stress Paws. The Friends of the Library continued to offer the most popular events, Pizza Night and a Coffee Bar. The coffee bar, normally a one-night event was expanded to five nights and included tea of various flavors, hot chocolate and apple cider.

A big thank you to all our collaborative partners for helping us provide such great support for our students during a stressful time of year.



*Melissa Powers, Ph.D., prof. in the
Dept. of Kinesiology & Health Studies,
setting up Labyrinth*

Build-a-Broncho

The ever-popular Build-a-Broncho was held Friday, April 28. Library staff always like to support the Student Programming Board by donating children's books to build an animal. Librarian, Christine Edwards, poses with all the animals she has built over the years. In addition to a broncho, there are usually a couple of other types of animals you can stuff. Edwards is holding this semester's animals - a broncho, a red panda and a cow. This is a great collaboration benefiting the library and the Student Programming Board that the whole community enjoys.



Christine Edwards, Librarian

STAFF IN THE NEWS



Ruth Brown Award

The UCO Chambers Library, Metadata & Cataloging team, won the prestigious 2023 Ruth Brown Award for their work establishing the Metadata Justice in Oklahoma Libraries & Archives Symposium. Librarians Shay Beezley, Anona Earls and Kaitlyn Palone accepted the award on behalf of their team at the joint Oklahoma Library Association/Mountain Plains Library Association Conference April 9, 2023.

Last summer, we reported on this inaugural event designed to encourage librarians and archivists to incorporate inclusive approaches to their work describing resources to make them more discoverable. Metadata plays a critical role in electronic discovery. More inclusive and conscientious metadata can promote underrepresented groups by making historically invisible and often marginalized groups, visible.

Established in 1997, the Ruth Brown Award, which includes a \$500 grant, is given to encourage and recognize programming that addresses issues of social concern as they impact libraries, library collections, and the communities they serve. Sponsored by the Oklahoma Library Association's

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Intellectual Freedom Roundtable, the award commemorates the courageous spirit of Ruth Brown, a Bartlesville librarian who was fired for providing library services to African Americans in her community.

Congratulations to the Metadata & Cataloging Team who also holds the distinct honor of being the first library technical services department to receive this award. The [2023 Metadata Justice in Oklahoma Libraries & Archives Symposium](#) will be held again this year on July 20, 2023. It will be offered online to the public at no cost making it available to anyone interested in attending.



L-R, Lese Salaswat, Kaitlyn Palone, Jenan Alleman, Shay Beezley, Anona Earls, Cynthia Sapper, and Stacey Leshner

Supporting the Oklahoma Library Community

Two of our librarians have been elected to serve. Shay Beezley is chair-elect of the OLA Technical Services Round Table and Karl Siewert, is chair-elect for the OLA Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Intellectual Freedom Round Table. We know you will both do a great job providing leadership for these two important groups.

New Employee

Casey Lowry



Web Developer

The library had a new web developer join the team this semester. Casey Lowry comes to us from East Central University in Ada, where they took a position as collection services librarian, upon completion of the MLIS program at OU, in 2015. After five years, Casey moved to the position of digital services librarian acquiring valuable website skills they will use in their new UCO position. Originally from Edmond, graduating from Edmond Memorial High School, Casey was happy to return to the area.

Casey has a passion for web accessibility and user experience design. They are focused on making the Chambers Library website as user friendly as possible. Outside of work Casey likes to play disc golf, tabletop and video games, and binge watch sci-fi shows, not surprising, since they received a B.A. in Film Studies, from the University of Tulsa. We are excited to have Casey on staff making improvements to the library's website.

Student Employee of the 2nd Quarter

Student employee in the library's Archives & Special Collection (ASC), Kali Cusick, won the Library Student Employee of the Quarter Award. Kali began working in the ASC last spring, and during the time she was here made a truly impressive impact. She helped to complete several, sometimes-monotonous, projects without complaint while being quiet as a church mouse.

Her supervisor said, "Kali was speedy and efficient but most importantly her work was accurate." Cusick's nominator said, "Her attention to detail and efficiency has meant projects that would have taken weeks if not months, are now finished."

Sadly, Kali moved on to a higher paying job leaving big shoes to fill. We want to thank Kali, for all her great work in the ASC.



Kali Cusick

Exceptional Woman Award

Shay Beezley is a talented leader. As a result of leading the charge on the Metadata Justice Symposium, she was awarded the UCO Office of Diversity and Inclusion's Exceptional Woman Award in the Staff category. Congratulations Shay and thank you for all the good work you are doing to advance the profession.



*Shay Beezley,
Asst. Director of
Metadata & Catalogging*

Serving the Oklahoma Archives Community

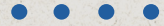
Heather Scheele-Clark was elected as a member-at-large to the executive board for the Oklahoma Archives Association.

Heather also presented a paper at the Britain and the World Conference at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA this past April. The conference investigates Britain's global interactions, past and present.

Book Reviews



Title: **The Terminal List**
Author: Jack Carr
Reviewer: Aaron Sterba



This is a story of revenge, and it had me hooked by the end of the first paragraph. James Reece, a Navy SEAL team leader, puts his skills to good use tracking down everyone responsible for the death of those closest to him. He wanted to see just how far the government cover-up would go. I didn't want to put this book down, and as a result it was a very quick read; engaging, and suspenseful, with accurate details on tactics and weapons. Carr's real-world experience as a SEAL, comes through in the writing, and it helps add authenticity to the book.

The story is told in real time with some parts as flashbacks or memories but, is easy to follow. Jack Carr, also highlights the psychological impact of war on the tip of the spear operators and helps bring the unseen trauma of brain injury into the spotlight. The dialogue is never awkward, and the decisions and actions of the characters are always reasonable given the plot progression. Carr

offers a great commentary on his protagonist, James Reece, that introduces us to a character that is stronger, smarter, and much more capable than any one man could be all on his own but, in my opinion, that helps create a mythos that brings the character into legend.

Much like Lee Child's Jack Reacher, and Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan, (and maybe even a less quirky version of James Bond), James Reece has carved out his place in this dark revenge story. You may have seen the Amazon Prime series of the *Terminal List*, but in typical fashion, the book tells so much more and brings us even deeper into the story.

CHAMBER OF BOOKS STORE

We are excited for you to check out our online bookstore, the Chamber of Books! Shop from anywhere you have an internet connection. To start shopping you can scan the QR Code with your phone or go to library.uco.edu and click the 'Chamber of Books Store' link under Services. We want to hear from you about what you like and don't like. To provide feedback please email us at chamberofbooks@uco.edu.



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SUNDAY

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