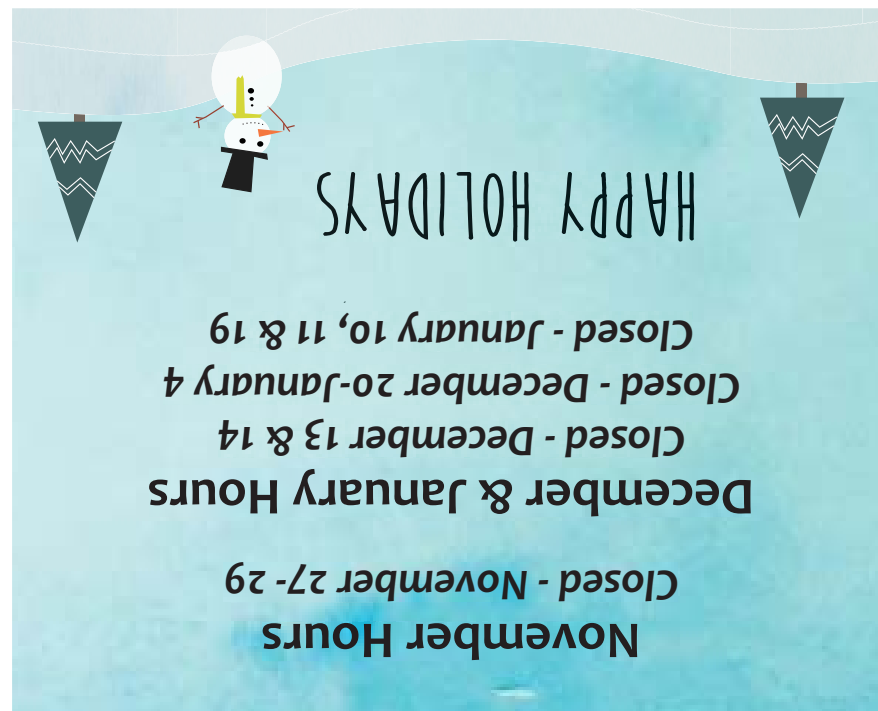


STATISTICS FROM 2013/2014

Website visitors: 491,571
 Number of titles: 670,978
 Items circulated: 40,487
 Exit counts: 609,735
 Reference questions: 14,234
 Classes taught: 351
 Individuals taught: 8,515
 Interlibrary loans:
 Borrowed from other libraries: 7,546
 Provided to other libraries: 4,121
 Streaming videos accessed: 18,249
 Number of database searches: 2,378,266
 Number of articles downloaded: 2,638,947
 New Books added to the collection: 2,422
 E-Books made accessible : 4,766



Friends of Chambers Library
 University of Central Oklahoma
 Max Chambers Library
 Campus Box 192
 100 North University Drive
 Edmond, OK. 73034

FRIENDS

OF CHAMBERS LIBRARY UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

NEWSLETTER/FALL 2014

Collection Highlight: MARILYN HARRIS COLLECTION



Marilyn Harris

In 1977, 40,000 books were published in all categories. Only 150 of these were first novels, a consistent annual number during that era. While 150 first novels were published every year 20,000 hopeful writers received rejection slips. That same year 6 of those 150 first novels were written by then CSU students. You might ask how is it that such a large percentage of first time published authors came from Central. The answer is Marilyn Harris Springer. She devoted much of her time to teaching young people who aspired to write professionally.

It was a time of tremendous conglomerations in the publishing business. Family owned companies like Random House and McGraw Hill were being bought up by giants like RCA and American Express. These family run companies had become more conservative not as able to gamble on a first novel. Most houses preferred a sure-fire seller. A publishing company needed to sell 15,000 hardback copies to break even and make everyone a little money.

As artist-in-residence at then CSU, Marilyn taught a course in the Creative Writing Program titled, "The Writing of the Novel." In an interview talking about her teaching Marilyn said: "The first problem is to help the student discover where their first novel is, to help them discover their vision and voice. Once a student has found a way to tap creativity, find a story and the

courage to write it, it's merely a matter of shepherding them through the narrows of technique—how to tell the story in the best possible way." She repeatedly told her students, "A marketable novel must engage, hold, captivate in some way. There must be conflict and resolution of some kind." Students could not submit formerly written work. She insisted that all enrollees begin a fresh work so that she could carefully guide the entire process. She preferred students enter her class in the fall and continue in sequence through the spring so that by the end of the semester they would produce a completed novel.

Marilyn Harris was a classical pianist who at midlife began writing poetry, short stories and novels. During the course of her writing career she published twenty books. Working with publishing companies like DoubleDay, Random House, Crown, and Putnam & Sons, over nine million copies of her works were printed in seven different languages. Four books made it to national bestsellers lists and one was produced into a CBS Movie of the week. She won many honors including the Lewis Carroll Shelf Award, Oklahoma Writers Hall of Fame, O. Henry Award,

and the University of Oklahoma Literary Award.

The late Marilyn Harris is best known for her seven novel "Eden" series, an historical saga about the Eden family of England and *Hatter Fox* chosen as a Literary Guild Book Club selection. Cliff Warren, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts during her tenure said, "She has had more critics point out the fitness of her work than any other Oklahoma author giving her the title Oklahoma's most critically acclaimed author." She made a lasting impression on hundreds of Central Oklahoma students using her talent to make a significant contribution.



Marilyn Harris book covers

Through a generous gift made by Judge Springer, Marilyn's late husband and her son UCO English Professor, John Springer Ph.D. the Archives and Special Collections has acquired the Marilyn Harris Manuscript Collection. The materials in her collection demonstrate the full cycle of the creative writing process. Most interesting are the correspondence between Marilyn and her editors and publishers. It's easy to see how the great old literary gentlemen of the family publishing houses guided their authors to perfection.

Visit the Archives and Special Collection to learn more about the Marilyn Harris Collection.

<http://library.uco.edu/archives>

library.uco.edu/giving



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University of Central Oklahoma

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Edmond, OK 73034

<http://library.uco.edu>
libdev@uco.edu
Phone: (405) 974-2877
Fax: (405) 974-3806

Library Hours:

Monday-Thursday
7:30 am - 2:00 am

Friday
7:30 am - 6:00 pm

Saturday
10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Sunday
12:00 pm - 2:00 am

Members

We would like to acknowledge and thank those who support the Friends of Chambers Library.

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Book Reviews

THE HOUSE GIRL by Tara Conklin

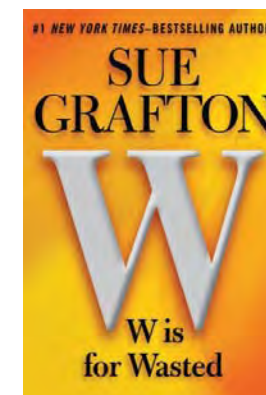


The House Girl tells the story of Josephine, a slave at the Bell Creek Plantation in Virginia in 1852. Josephine tends to her mistress Lu Ann, a woman wracked by grief and illness who paints to alleviate her sadness. Josephine learns to paint as well. Josephine touches up her mistress' paintings, but also paints superior paintings of her own, of the other slaves on the plantation. The reader then meets Lina, a lawyer in the present day, working on a slave reparations case. In the course of this work, she learns that Lu Ann is credited with paintings that Josephine painted, and she begins work on giving Josephine proper credit. Along the way, Lina must come to grips with the death of her mother, who died when Lina was four.

The narrative shifts between Lina and Josephine, and each story is compelling. Conklin's prose is engaging and her depictions of plantation illuminate the complexities of being a house slave: more privileged than the field hands, but still a position rife with abuse and danger. Josephine's reasons for escape become clear as the narrative progresses.

The House Girl compliments other novels the library owns about women in slavery: *Someone Knows My Name* by Lawrence Hill, *Property* by Valerie Martin, and *The Bondwoman's Narrative* by Hannah Crafts. If *The House Girl* appeals, have a look at these too.

W IS FOR WASTED by Sue Grafton PS3557.R13 W17 2013 Review by Jean Longo



This is the twenty third book in the Kinsey Millhone Mystery Series. Having read the previous twenty two books in the series I was not disappointed. The sleuth, Kinsey Millhone lives a frugal existence in a garage apartment next door to her 88 year old landlord. What I have enjoyed about this character is that she is uncomplicated and unconcerned about the finer things in life. She has managed to change automobiles throughout the series but she continues to hold on to her single black dress that she pulls out for formal occasions or funerals. In this story she is introduced to two dead men. One she knew and the other a stranger. The acquaintance is a fellow detective with unsavory techniques for extracting money from his clients or other individuals that he finds some dirt. The stranger, a homeless man found on the beach, has her name in his pocket. Joining a few of his homeless friends she begins her journey to find out why her name is in his pocket and finally why he left her over \$500,000 in his will.

For more staff book and media reviews go to:
[url: http://libguides.uco.edu/staffreviews](http://libguides.uco.edu/staffreviews)

OPEN 24/5

The library will be open

Noon on Sunday, Dec. 1st through Friday, Dec. 5th at 6:00pm.

Normal hours on Saturday, Dec. 6

Noon on Sunday Dec. 7, through Friday, Dec. 12, at 6:00pm.

Closed on Saturday Dec. 13 and Sunday Dec. 14



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Grants and Contests

FOL AWARDS TWO TEACHER FELLOWSHIPS

Margo Loflin, Chair of the History Department and AP history teacher at Norman High School, and Hayley Hood, a multicultural and U.S. History teacher at Tulsa Union High School, were selected from fifteen applicants to receive \$2000 research fellowships, offered through the support of the Friends of Chambers Library. The grants provide support to create four multi-disciplinary lesson plans to accompany a traveling trunk focused on the library's Sidney Bray World War II Collection. Through the generosity of the Friends of the Library and the work of these teachers, Chambers Library hopes to provide lesson plans and other tools that K-12 teachers can utilize in their classrooms.



The files of longtime Edmond resident Sidney Bray, who was the regional director of the U.S. Savings Bond Program from 1942-1965, provide insight into U.S. efforts to mobilize the citizenry and finance U.S. involvement in World War II. The collection includes many scrapbooks created by schools



Right, Fellow, Margo Loflin and Left Archivist Nicole Willard examine artifacts from the Sidney Bray WW II Collection.

throughout Oklahoma, documenting their war efforts through fundraising. Many of these schools still exist today and the scrapbooks are wonderful primary sources the teachers may use in their classrooms.

For more information about the Sidney Bray collection, visit <http://library.uco.edu/archives/collections/collection-bray.cfm>.

BOOK SPINE POETRY CONTEST

Due to the popularity of the Book Spine Poetry Contest in Fall 2013, the Friends of the Library decided to sponsor the student contest once again this fall. Students submitted a photo of six to eight books, stacked so that their titles created an original poem.

We received 65 entries and first, second, and third place winners were selected by a panel of Library judges. Stewart Perryman, a Journalism major, won first place and a prize of \$300. Megan Goff, a Junior English Creative writing major, won second place and \$200. Third place and \$100 went to Sarah Davis, a Junior Creative writing major. Honorable Mention went to Loren Mitchell. A reception honoring the winners was held on November 10, in the Library.



Left to right - Megan Goff, Stewart Perryman, Sarah Davis

FACULTY BOOK & MATERIALS GRANTS

The Friends are accepting applications for a \$1000 grant to be awarded to one faculty member for the purchase of materials to fill a gap in the library's collections. Deadline to apply is January 15, 2015. For more information, visit <http://library.uco.edu/giving/grant>.



Library board member

DR. TED HONEA, III

I just read that 5% of total information is on the internet, all the rest of our knowledge is still in books. I can believe it but won't vouch for the accuracy because it was in a novel not a research report, but I want to use the author's implication to make a point. The author, or at least his character, clearly equated information with knowledge—I don't. This troubles me, this reductionism, this informationalization of knowledge, this debasement of knowledge to disparate facts floating virtually somewhere in a cloud.

Yesterday in class I wrote these items on the board and asked the class what it meant: one 9 volt battery, one medium-size bolt, twelve feet of insulated copper wire. It was a music class, but still I was surprised that only one student out of twenty knew the answer—an electromagnet. I used this as an example: the components are mere facts, knowledge gives you a possible meaning. The human intellect has to be involved, armed with a body of past experience, a context that can convert information into knowledge—I make no attempt to speak like a cognitive psychologist. I tell the students that I'm trying to give them some information and enough context to be getting on with to continue to develop in their own lives. "Lives" is a critical word.

I remember an incident from long ago when I was working reference desk in a library. A student asked me a question. I thought about it and said, "I know the book where I can find that" and started to get it. He stopped me, exasperated, and said "why don't you just look it up on the computer?" My only answer was, "because that kind of thing won't be in the computer." What he had asked me was a question of knowledge, not information. Knowledge requires human agency and has a historical dimension to it. I now understand the author of a book on Greek mythology when he said that there was both an informational content to a myth and also a historical quality, a meaning as to how people had used it in life. Incidentally, the student left before I got back with the book. My immediate gratification for him wasn't immediate enough, but that's a different essay, or is it?

This is where I come to the nature of libraries. Libraries are full of books, or that's how I think of them. The book possesses that inescapable human quality of history and context, of a real human agency grappling with a problem



Dr. Ted Honea, III, Music Department, College of Fine Arts and Design, FOL President-Elect.

and creating something new, something you can "converse" with in a sense—and I'm even willing to accept the digital book, though I don't want to use them myself. I am, after all, a former rare books librarian. I don't even think the "digital age" is conceptually "bad," it's all how people use it, which I do think is often bad.

The libraries of my youth, and most even still today, are inescapably human in a world I see as increasingly dehumanized by the lemming-like flight to informationalization. As the noted paleographer Albert DeRolez once said in class, "over-information is no information at all." By the way, there is research to support that—too much information leads to bad decisions. Why? I say because we mistake it for knowledge. Information alone leads only to an infinite regress where everything is both relevant and irrelevant, rather like Umberto Eco's idea in another very interesting novel.

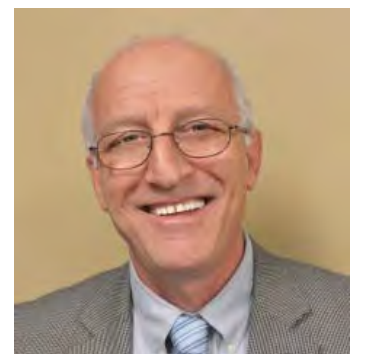
Libraries as repositories of knowledge, not mere information, refuse to allow us to informationalize our lives. To walk into my kind of library is to be humbled in the presence of historical context and human agency. It is also to be exhilarated with the knowledge that you also are a participant. I sometimes wonder whether my type of library will survive the debasement of knowledge that I see going on. I don't know, I won't be here long enough, unless I get to be one of the books on the shelf, but I do know that it should—should as in "ought to."

Addendum in case you're interested, I can recommend:

- Robin Sloan, *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore*.
- Walter Burkert, *Structure and History in Greek Mythology*.
- Umberto Eco, *Foucault's Pendulum*.
- Charles O'Reilly, "Individuals and Information Overload," *Academy of Management Journal* 23 (1980).
- Russell Ackoff, "Management Misinformation Systems," *Management Science* 14 (1987).

Chambers Library Welcomes New Interim Executive Director

Habib Tabatabai has been named the Interim Executive Director of Chambers Library, effective July 1, 2014. He replaces retiring Executive Director, Dr. Bonnie McNeely. He has served Chambers Library for twenty-four years, first as a reference librarian and most recently as Director of Systems and Technical Services. He holds master's degrees in political science and library and information studies. In addition, he has served in various roles within the Ex Libris Users of North America, including as the current chair-elect of its steering committee, he is also a member of the International Ex Libris Users Conference Program Planning Committee. Please help us welcome Habib Tabatabai as the library's new interim Executive Director.



Habib Tabatabai, Interim Executive Director

Fall Library Events: Faculty Research Series & More

FACULTY RESEARCH SERIES

The library continued its “Faculty Research Series” from the Spring 2014 semester with two presentations.

Dr. Rashi Shukla and her students presented “Methamphetamine: Understanding the Underground World” on October 7 to a very large crowd. Methamphetamine is one of the most serious drug problems in Oklahoma. This presentation highlighted an ongoing study of the methamphetamine problem by discussing the evolution of the meth problem, research challenges, limits of policy responses, and insight into the underground world from interviews with former manufacturers.



Dr. Rashi Shukla, Prof. Criminal Justice presenting

On October 9, UCO Professor Emeritus Hall Duncan gave a talk about his new book, *Escape to Macaya*, a novel about child slavery in Haiti. After witnessing child slavery in many parts of the world, Dr. Duncan was inspired to write and illustrate this novel for young adults highlighting the plight of child slaves around the world.



Dr. Hall Duncan, Prof Emeritus Journalism seated facing audience

STYLE CLASS OFFERED BY LIBRARY

Librarians offered numerous classes open to all students, in APA, MLA, and Chicago Manual of Style. Students learned to construct and read citations, format papers, and prevent plagiarism. These popular classes will be offered again in spring.

On September 9, Lisa Sielert and her Creativity in Early Childhood class used the Murrah Art Walking Tour Guide to tour the artwork in the library. Hard copies of the Guide are available on a table on the first floor by the east elevators. For more information visit <http://library.uco.edu/archives/artworks/murrah/>



Students building Buddy Broncho stuffed animals

PASSPORT TO RUSSIA

The UCO Passport to Russia program has partnered with Chambers Library this semester to offer a variety of events in the library each Wednesday through November 19. Topics included Russian film, politics, criminal justice, art, literature, and more. Events begin at noon each Wednesday in Room 226. For a full listing of events, which are free and open to the public, visit www.uco.edu/central/passport.



A student participates in the Russian Physics and Engineering Passport event.

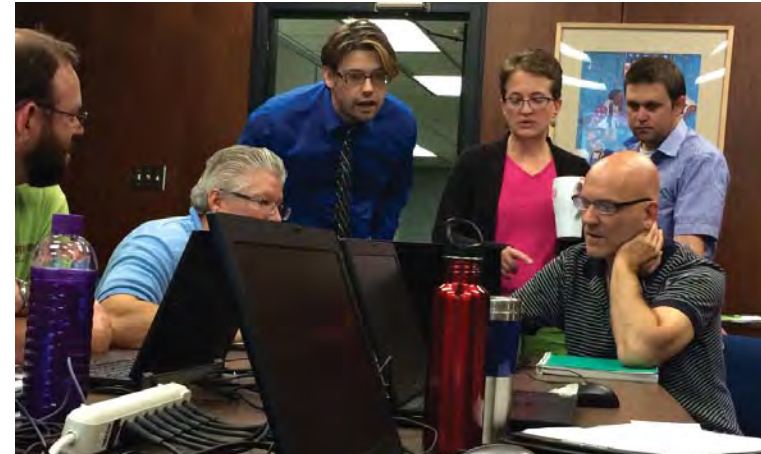
BUILD A BRONCHO

On September 9, the Student Programming Board hosted its annual “Build a Broncho” event on the first floor of the library. In exchange for a donated children’s book to be given to a charity, students were allowed to make a “Buddy Broncho” stuffed animal. The event was very popular and resulted in a large number of children’s books being donated to the Children’s Miracle Network.



Students building Buddy Broncho stuffed animals

Library Makes Transition to Alma.



Alma training for Chambers Library staff

Chambers Library staff recently said goodbye to Voyager, the library’s system for ordering, cataloging, and circulating library materials that was in use for the past 12 years. Voyager has been succeeded by Alma, a cloud-based library management solution developed by Ex Libris. Many tasks that were manual in Voyager are automated in Alma, so by making this transition, library staff will provide improved services to students, faculty, and staff at UCO. Along with the Alma transition, Central Search, the

library’s discovery interface and retrieval system, was upgraded to take advantage of new capabilities.

The transition from Voyager to Alma brought us a whirlwind year. Ex Libris representatives visited the library back in March for a live demonstration, and by late May, the newly-formed Alma committee kicked off implementation with Ex Libris. Summertime was spent preparing data for migration, joining weekly conference calls, testing data, and

culminated in an onsite 3-day training workshop with trainers from Ex Libris. As the new semester began, the finish line approached as library staff continued to train, test data, and worked with Campus IT to ensure a smooth Go-Live date. Three of our librarians also underwent an intensive month-long certification program. Finally, on October 13th, Alma went live with great success.

Many thanks goes out to the people involved – Dr. Bonnie McNeely and Habib Tabatabai for working with Ex Libris on contract negotiations; Kirsten Prenzlow-Davis and Shay Beezley for co-leading the library’s Alma Committee; Abbey Warner for handling the Central Search upgrade; Carolyn Mahin for ensuring Circulation was prepared for Go-Live and with special recognition to Gray Hale, who recently won Library Employee of the Quarter for his assistance in training the Circulation staff; and Campus IT, namely Dave Mumford, Ben Branch, David Thompson, and Chris Cone, for providing their expertise and assistance. We look forward to the new and improved services that Alma and the Central Search upgrade will bring.



Changes to Annual Book Sale

The Friends of Chambers Library board is excited to announce changes to the annual book sale. At its spring meeting, the board discussed the steadily declining revenue generated by the book sale over the past few years, a trend that other libraries across the country have experienced as well. For several years, the revenue generated has barely covered or not covered the expense of hosting the sale. Therefore, the board voted to no longer hold an annual three-day book

sale and to explore and implement new ways to raise funds with donated books.

In place of the book sale, donated books will be sold year-round on book shelves on the first floor of the library, a method that is popular with public libraries. FOL members will receive a 50% discount on all items sold in this manner and they won’t have to wait for the annual sale to snag some great bargains! We hope to have this available soon and will mail postcards to all members to let them know when it has

started. The library staff and FOL board are also examining other ways to generate revenue from the donated items.

Additionally, the board will host an annual fundraising event, the first being planned for Fall 2015, to which all members will receive an invitation and a discounted fee. We are excited about the prospect of selling books year-round and generating even more funds to support Chambers Library’s collections and programming!

Library Employee of the Quarter

Gray Hale is the most recent winner of the Chambers Library Employee of the Quarter Award. Gray is night supervisor at the circulation desk and was nominated by several coworkers for many reasons. He is consistently helpful and friendly to patrons and coworkers. He recognizes everyone’s talent and hard work and bolsters their spirit for it. Over the past few months Gray has been the lead in testing and training the Circulation staff and student employees on Alma, the Library’s new integrated system for

ordering, cataloging and circulating materials. Gray was nominated for his methodical and extremely thorough nature in making sure Circulation staff were prepared for the transition into Alma. Gray went to great lengths to ensure new processes were understood by all circulation staff without disruption to patron services. Gray fosters positive encounters with everyone he meets. We congratulate Gray and thank him for his dedicated service to the Library.



Library Employee of the Quarter, Gray Hale