

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

Spring 2024

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHT

History of the Library

The history of Central's library is a testament to the enduring commitment of our campus community to fostering intellectual growth and supporting the pursuit of knowledge. From its humble beginnings in the late 19th Century, to its current state as a modern academic resource hub, the library has evolved in tandem with the changing landscape of higher education.

The roots of Central's library can be traced back to the establishment of the Lyceum Literary Society in 1893, as the first student organization on campus, they also claimed the distinction of being the first literary society in Oklahoma. As a debate club the Lyceum members recognized the importance of having a centralized repository of knowledge. The society organized a debate in 1894 with the other literary society on campus the Pioneer Club, to raise funds for the purchase of books and periodicals. With that one event \$26 was raised from admission fees, today that would be equivalent to about \$950. This marked the inception of the university's dedication to providing access to information and encouraging scholarly discourse among its students.

Originally housed in Old North, the library quickly became an integral part of campus life, supporting the curriculum by providing essential



Max Chambers Library, 2002

texts for students and faculty alike. As the school expanded and enrollment grew, so too did the library's collections and facilities. With the opening the Administration Building in 1904, Central's library gained a dedicated reading room and stacks room, signaling its growing importance as a vital resource of academic endeavors.

In 1915, the construction of Evans Hall marked a significant milestone in the library's history. Named in honor of President Charles Evans, who played a pivotal role in securing funding for the new building, Evans Hall became the states first library in higher education built with state funds. The dedication of Evans Hall in 1916 underscored the library's central role in supporting the university's mission of education and scholarship.

Over the years, the library continued to adapt to technological advancements and the evolving needs of its users. The dedication of the Max Chambers Library, named after the schools 15th president in 1957, today the Communications building, marked a significant expansion of Central's library facilities, reflecting the university's commitment to providing

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“**Today Central's library stands as a symbol of the University's dedication to academic excellence and innovation.**”



History of the Library Continued...

students with access to a growing collection of resources. However, with the post-World War II surge in enrollment, the need for even larger facilities became apparent.

In 1969, Central opened a new four-story library, five times larger than its predecessor, to accommodate the university's expanding collections and student population. This new facility not only provided ample space for study and research but also allowed for the integration of emerging technologies, such as microform readers, computers, and later, Internet access, online resources, mobile technology and virtual and augmented reality.

Today Central's library stands as a symbol of the university's dedication to academic excellence and innovation. From its modest beginnings as a debate club fundraiser to its current status as a state-of-the-art academic resource center, the library continues

to serve as a cornerstone of the university community. As Central celebrates 130 years of service, the library remains committed to stewarding its academic resources and supporting the intellectual pursuits of students and faculty for generations to come.



Max Chambers Library, 1957, today the Communications Building

Library Report

For three decades it has been my privilege and honor to serve this esteemed institution. As I stand on the threshold of retirement, I find myself reflecting on the incredible experiences, relationships, and memories that have defined my tenure here.

When I first walked through the doors of the Archives & Special Collections 30 years ago, I could never have imagined the profound impact it would have on my life. From that moment forward, each day brought new trials, triumphs, and a deep sense of purpose. The Archives & Special Collections became not just a workplace, but a sanctuary—a place where passion met purpose, and where the preservation of knowledge and history was not just a duty but a calling.

Looking back on my journey, I am grateful for all the opportunities, challenges and memories that have shaped my career. From the very beginning, I have been fortunate to work alongside incredibly talented colleagues. Through countless projects, exhibitions, and initiatives, we have strived to not only preserve the past but to make it accessible and relevant to generations present and future.

As I prepare to pass the torch to the next generation, I do so with a heart full of gratitude—for the opportunities afforded to me, for the trust placed in me, and for the unwavering support of this institution and its leadership. While I may be stepping down from my role as senior director, the spirit of Chambers Library and UCO will forever remain a part of who I am.

To each and every member of the University family, past and present, I extend my deepest thanks. It has been an honor and a privilege to safeguard the rich history of Central's past. I will forever carry memories of my time in this extraordinary place.

With warmest regards,
Nicole Willard



*Nicole Willard,
Senior Dir. Chambers Library*



Friends of Chambers Library

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

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**Habib Tabatabai
Nicole Willard**

Library Hours

**Monday - Thursday
7:30a.m. - 12:15 a.m.
Friday
7:30a.m. - 6:00p.m.
Saturday
10:00a.m. - 6:00p.m.
Sunday
Noon - 12:15 a.m.**

Max Chambers Library

**100 N. University Dr.
Campus Box 192
Edmond, Oklahoma 73034
Phone: (405) 974-3361
Text: (405) 266-5895**

library.uco.edu

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Shawn Wright

Exhibits

Juneteenth Exhibit Opening

In celebration of Black History Month the Chambers Library with support from the Liberal Arts GTTF hosted a Juneteenth exhibit and presentation. Retired librarian and researcher, Phillip Tolbert curated a display presenting the story of Juneteenth, and its impact on Black Americans.

With the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, all enslaved people in the United States were declared free. However, it would take another two years for slaves in Confederate controlled Texas to gain their freedom. Tolbert shared the compelling account of the day that became known as Juneteenth.

Tolbert a Native Oklahoman and alumni of UCO, spent his career serving the Metropolitan Library System of Oklahoma County as a librarian. He became known throughout the system for his skill in creating informative and attractive displays, exhibits, and related programs. Topics he explores include African American inventors, Af-

rican American wisdom, and Black Wall Street (Greenwood). Tolbert uses displays to educate and engage patrons bringing awareness to significant contributions from the African American community.

In addition, students who viewed the exhibit had the opportunity to receive STLR exposure credit by scanning the QR code provided and answering a few questions. A large and enthusiastic crowd gathered to view the exhibit and listen to the presentation held on the 1st floor of the Max Chambers library, Feb. 15. A reception following the presentation was sponsored by the UCO Max Chambers Friends of the Library.



Juneteenth Exhibit

Breaking Barriers: Title IX and the Evolution of Women's Sports at UCO Exhibit Opening

In honor of Women's History Month, the Chambers Library hosted Breaking Barriers: Title IX and the Evolution of Women's Sports at UCO, an exhibit and presentation that featured Virginia Peters, Ph.D., former director of women's athletics at UCO and emeritus professor, and Gerry Pinkston, Ph.D., former UCO head softball coach and professor emeritus.

Before the passage of Title IX in 1972, many female students across the nation had limited access to or were barred from certain academic fields of study such as criminal justice, law, medicine, and the STEM fields. Sexist attitudes and stereotypes were pervasive, shaping the interactions between students and faculty. Women often faced demeaning treatment, gender-based stereotypes and societal expectation that limited their educational and professional opportunities.

Recognizing these gross inequities in education, women like Patsy Mink and Edith Green began advocating for laws that would equalize the playing field. Both were among the first women and of color, elected to the U.S.

Congress. Patsy Mink is recognized as the major author and sponsor of the legislation introduced into Congress. After considerable effort Title IX became part of the Education Amendment of 1972, which was renamed the Patsy Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act, when she died in 2002.

Nowhere in the legislation does it mention sports or athletics or even physical education. Yet, Title IX had a profound and unexpected impact on women's sports, leading to increased opportunities, funding, and participation rates of female athletes at all levels, from youth to collegiate and professional sports.

Over 50 people attended the event held March 12, on the 1st floor of the Chambers Library. Peters started the presentation by giving an account of what women's sports was like at UCO before the passage of Title IX. Pinkston then followed by sharing how Titles IX was implemented over the past 50 years and the eventual improvements for women in sports at UCO. A reception following the presentation, was sponsored by the Friends of Chambers Library.

To see a recording of the presentation visit: [Breaking Barriers Title IX and the Evolution of Women's Sports at UCO \(youtube.com\)](#).



Presenters, Dr. Virginia Peters and Dr. Gerry Pinkston, both UCO Emeritus Faculty



Breaking Barriers: Title IX and the Evolution of Women's Sports at UCO Exhibit

Books & Beyond, 130 Years of Central's Library

The Max Chambers Library recently celebrated a momentous milestone—the library's 130th anniversary—with a joyous event that brought together students, faculty, staff, alumni and esteemed guests to commemorate this historic occasion.

The program featured brief remarks from key figures in university leadership, including Todd G. Lamb, newly installed 22nd president of the university, Charlotte Simmons, university provost and vice president of academic affairs, and Habib Tabatabai, Library Executive Director. Nicole Willard, library senior director, served as Master of Ceremony sharing the origins of Central's Library and thanking the whole library community for their unwavering support. Their words of praise and appreciation underscored the library's significance as a cornerstone of learning and scholarship at the University of Central Oklahoma.



Books & Beyond: 130 Years of Central Library exhibit

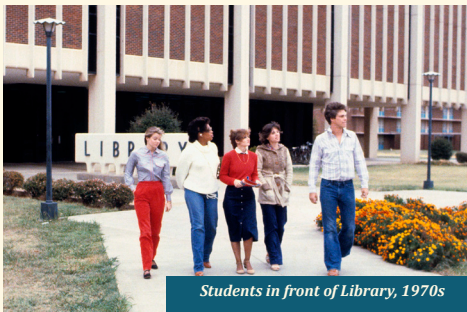
Books & Beyond, 130 Years of Central's Library continued...

Guest were treated to a scrumptuous buffet of delectable food, fostering a sense of camaraderie and community among the attendees. In addition, everyone had the opportunity to spin for some fabulous library swag, adding an element of fun and excitement to the festivities.

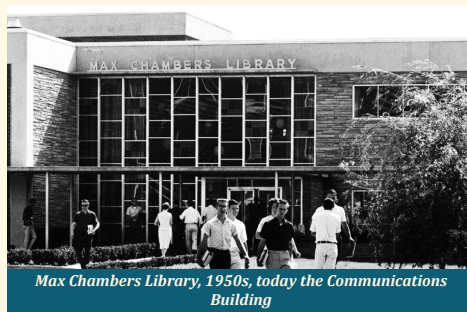
An integral part of the celebration was the exhibit showcasing a selection of carefully curated photographs chronicling the library's evolution across its five distinct locations. It also paid homage to the individuals who have left an indelible mark on the Max Chambers Library, highlighting past directors and their impact on the institution's growth and development.

The celebration served as a poignant reminder of the library's rich history, vibrant present and promising future. Congratulations to the Max Chambers Library on 130 years of excellence and service to the University of Central Oklahoma.

To see a recording of the event visit: https://streaming.uco.edu/media/Max+Chamber++Li-brary+130+Anniversary+Event+4-30-2024+/1_sfpv0Ing/26986922



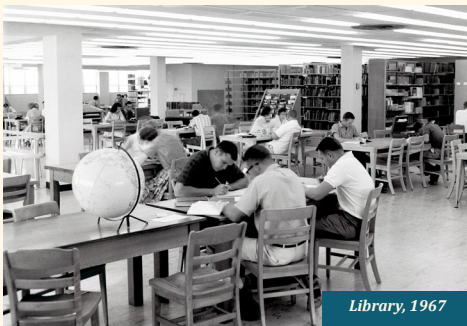
Students in front of Library, 1970s



Max Chambers Library, 1950s, today the Communications Building



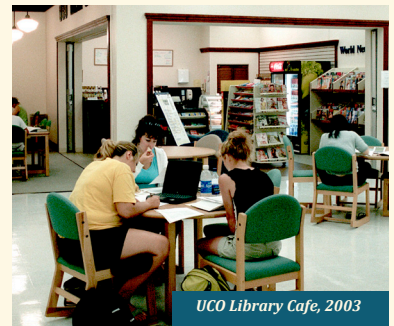
Students in the microfilm section, 1974



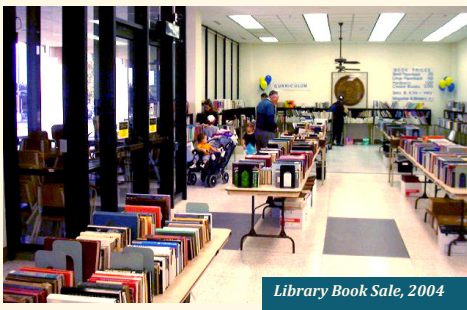
Library, 1967



Library, 1904



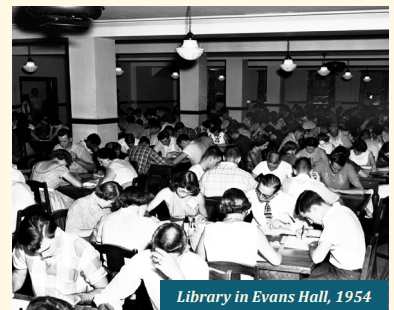
UCO Library Cafe, 2003



Library Book Sale, 2004



Old South, demolished in 1971



Library in Evans Hall, 1954



LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE



**130
YEARS**



**MAX
CHAMBERS**

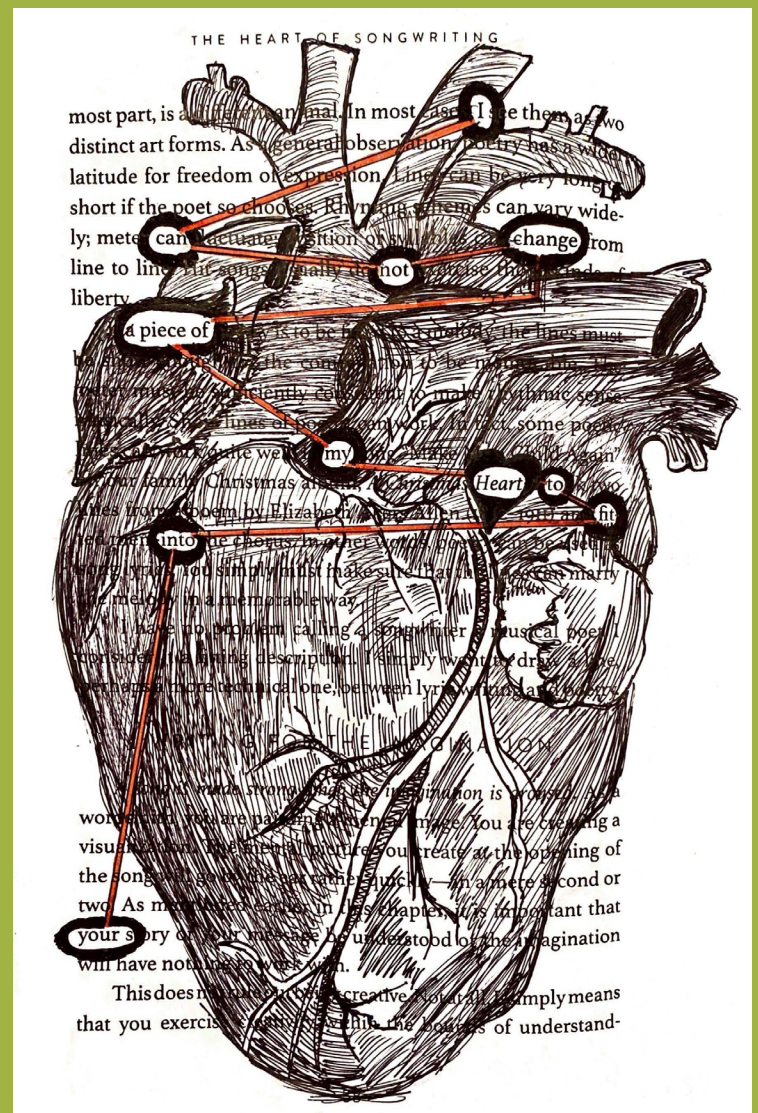


UCO STUDENT BLACKOUT POETRY CONTEST

Blackout poetry is a wonderful and fun way to make something new out of something old. It's when you take a written piece of text from a book, newspaper, or magazine and redact words, in order to come up with your own new poem.

The contest ran from Feb. 1, through Mar. 1, and was open to any current UCO student. The top prize of a \$500 UCO tuition waiver, was incentive enough to inspire some very imaginative poems. The judges had a hard time deciding but after several rounds of narrowing a winner was finally selected. Daniel Tarter a student in the Music department, won not only for the poem but also for the creative way he redacted his poem in the shape of a heart. Karhol Kamil, received a \$300 UCO tuition waiver for 2nd place and Zoey Leatherman, took 3rd place with a prize of an Amazon Firestick.

Because there were so many great poems a Blackout Poetry exhibit was displayed on the 1st floor with the winners and other favorites of the judges. Congratulations to all our creative students. The judges were impressed with your originality and cleverness.



Blackout Poetry Winner, Daniel Tarter

Faculty Book & Materials Grant

We had some great submissions for the 2024 Faculty Book & Materials Grant, as we do every year. We are so grateful to our faculty for helping keep the library's collections relevant. This year's winners were Sophia Clark Ph.D., assistant professor modern languages, literature & cultural studies, for her proposal to enhance Manga and Anime, and Jerry Green, Ph. D., associate professor humanities and philosophy, for his proposal to expand the library's collections of titles on conspiracy theories.

The goal of Clark's grant was to establish a robust, interdisciplinary manga collection that will support comics and Japanese media courses at UCO through purchases that will enhance the library's existing collection. Clark also noted her submission coincides with two College of Liberal Arts program developments, the proposal of a new Japanese Minor in Modern Languages, Literature and Cultural Studies and the development of a special topics course titled "Manga and Anime." Clark is offering the manga-focused course for Modern Languages in Fall 2024 with the goal of eventually adding it to the UCO Course Catalog. Clark is also making a substantial donation of manga from her own personal collection to further support the establishment of a solid Manga and Anime collection in the library.

An important and growing area of academic research Green suggest expanding the library's collection on the topic of conspiracy theories. Green sited, "Conspiracy theories play a significant and ever-expanding role in our social and political landscapes...becoming more prevalent and more powerful in the digital era." Research is being done in many fields hence the interest from nearly every depart-

ment in the College of Liberal Arts.

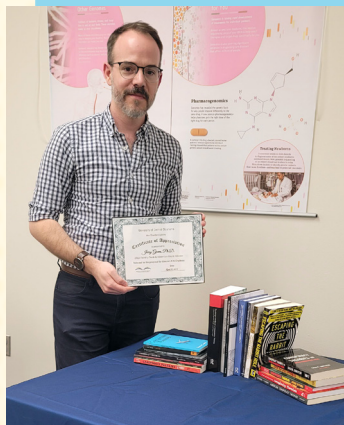
A reception honoring this year's and last year's winners Breana Downey, Ph.D., assistant professor psychology, for her proposal on Sports Psychology and Edward Collins, emeritus professor, Donna Nigh Department of Advanced Professional and Special Services, for his proposal on Artificial Intelligence and Chatbots, was held on Monday, April 22, at 3 p.m. on the 2nd floor of the Chambers Library in the North alcove. The books were on display and each faculty member shared why they chose the area for their proposals. Refreshments followed the presentation sponsored by the Friends of Chambers Library.



Breana Downey, 2023 winner



Edward Collins, 2023 winner



Jerry Green, 2024 winner



Sophia Clark, 2024 winner

INNOVATION STUDIO SPOTLIGHT

In January of this year the Innovation Studio welcomed new employee, Kaylen Buchanan. Kaylen was working as the Coordinator of Group Tours at UCO, but she also had previous experience in library makerspaces, having been a student worker at Oklahoma State University in that capacity. Because of that experience and her status as a student in the Oklahoma University School of Library and Information Science, she jumped at the chance to apply for the position vacated by Luci Seem's retirement.

Kaylen has been an enormous asset to the Studio and the library in general. She supervises our student workers, helps to plan Open Houses and other events, and keeps things organized. Currently, she is working on our policies and procedures, updating some and writing others from scratch with a lot of input from our experienced student workers. Some of the projects that have kept Kaylen and the students busy include:

- Models of the human sacrum for a kinesiology class
- Motel-style keychains using the laser cutter and Cricut
- Print-and-cut stickers
- Buttons for the Oklahoma Library Association conference
- Manipulatives for math instruction
- Laser-engraved denim patches

Over the past two semesters, the Studio has seen a considerable increase in usage. The 3D printers remain in constant use, and patrons have also been using the Cricut, the laser cutter, our virtual reality headsets, and the recording studio. However, we still have a lot to offer that isn't always apparent at first glance. Here are some exam-

ples:

Sailrite Sewing Machine

This heavy-duty machine was one of Karl's first purchases when they took over the Studio. It's designed to be an all-purpose machine for use on board a boat, so it will do standard apparel sewing, but also can sew leather, multiple layers of canvas, and other materials that a lesser machine would balk at. The Sailrite will be the focus of our April Open House, where we'll let participants work together to sew a quilt top that will eventually adorn the Studio's front desk.

Electronics

The Studio has two "engineering kits" that include an Arduino microcontroller and several pieces of test equipment that can be used for electronic experimentation. As an addendum to these kits, we have a soldering station, breadboards for mocking up circuits, a collection of components such as resistors, capacitors, and transistors, and wires to put everything together. Patrons can use these items plus a 3D-printed or laser cut enclosure to build their own electronic devices.

Vinyl and Slide Conversion

Although we are already decades into the digital age, there is still plenty of analog media out there. The Studio has a dedicated turntable that works with the recording studio laptop to allow patrons to convert recordings from vinyl records to digital files. We have similar equipment to convert slides and photo negatives to digital images. Patrons used these to preserve musical recordings made in an Oklahoma prison in the 1930s and family photos.

No matter what equipment our patrons are using, we are always happy to see them, and we look forward to making these and other technologies available to them for years to come!

AROUND THE LIBRARY

Interlibrary Loan Department Recognized as Outstanding Supplier of Digital Resources

The Chambers Library, Interlibrary Loan Department has been recognized as an outstanding supplier of digital resources by the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC). Because of this status, the department was invited to participate in OCLC's Express Digital Delivery program in 2023.

Libraries selected must maintain a turnaround time of 18-hours or less for copy requests and digital delivery of resources. The Chambers Library ILL team was chosen for this exclusive program based on their track record of delivering articles and other digital resources with an average turnaround time of 10-hours. Andrew Magnusson, Asst. Prof. History, shared, "They've helped me to track down rare materials from around the world in a variety of languages (including Arabic and Persian) over the years." Magnusson is one of the library's heaviest users of ILL services.

OCLC is a global library cooperative that provides shared support for more than 15,000-member

libraries worldwide. The Express Digital Delivery program connects more than 1,000 libraries from nearly 20 countries to fulfill ILL requests with remarkable speed. Member libraries are selected because they provide exceptional customer service and offer reliability and breadth of resources.

Our Interlibrary Loan staff work diligently providing access to an incredible number of resources. Visit the ILL webpage for more information and further assistance library.uco.edu/services/ill. You can also contact them by email at ill@uco.edu or by phone at 405-974-2876.



*Chambers Library Interlibrary Loan Department
L-R, Traca Wolf, Charles Melson, Mandy Roshan & Rachel Huddleston*

Dead & Finals Week

As finals week loomed like a dark cloud, the library staff sprang into action, determined to provide a beacon of support during this challenging time. The free Coffee Bar offered an array of teas, cider and hot chocolate in addition to coffee. With each sip, the students felt a wave of comfort wash over them, knowing they were not in alone in their struggle. Free Pizza Night had boxes upon boxes of piping hot pizza delivered, much to the delight of hungry students. We thank the Friends of Chambers Library for sponsoring these activities.

But the library's support did not stop there. Throughout the week, students were invited to pick-up stress kits and mocktails provided by the Center for Counseling and Well-Being. And for those seeking a more holistic approach to stress relief, a Mindfulness Movement session was offer in the North alcove on the 2nd floor by UCO's resident yogis Ed Cunliff and Chez Redmond.

Metadata Justice in Oklahoma Libraries & Archives Symposium

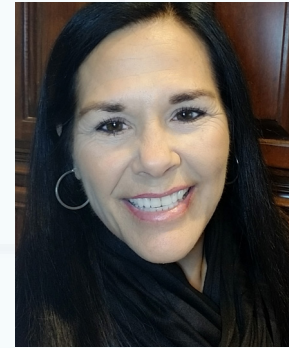
The 3rd Annual Metadata Justice in Oklahoma Libraries & Archives Symposium, coming June 13, 2024, will feature keynote speaker Librarian, Treshani Perera, University of Kentucky, sharing her research findings on inclusive description. Other speakers from prestigious institutions in Oklahoma, the Nation and Canada will address matters of inclusivity. The event will be held on Zoom and is free and open to the public but you must register. Visit <https://library.uco.edu/mjoklasymposium> for more details.

STAFF IN THE NEWS



CHAIN Conference

In February, Nicole Willard, senior director, presented at the 3rd International Conference of the Cultural Heritage Academic Interdisciplinary Network (CHAIN) at the University of Catania, Sicily. The theme of cultural heritage routes as pathways of intersection and exchange aimed at safeguarding, enhancing, and sharing tangible and intangible cultural heritage was the topic. Her presentation, "Conservation and Education: Safeguarding the Melton Legacy Collection" was first on the program after the keynote. Nicole commented, "it was an incredible opportunity to network with colleagues from around the world whose passion is preserving culture heritage."



*Nicole Willard,
Senior Dir. Chambers Library*

OLA Presenters

In March at the Oklahoma Library Association conference, Nicole Sump-Crethar, director of technology and data management and Shay Beezley presented, "Cultivating a Culture of Inclusive Metadata." This timely and important topic was well received by conference attendees.



*Nicole Sump-Crethar, Dir. of
Technology and Data Management*

Special Project Award

Congratulations to Shay Beezley, assistant director metadata & cataloging and Casey Lowry, web developer, for receiving the Special Project Award at the Oklahoma Library Association (OLA) conference during March in Tulsa. The award is granted to those who make an outstanding contribution on one project for OLA or who play a key role in a noteworthy project. With Casey serving as chair of the OLA Governance Committee and Shay as chair of the Handbook Subcommittee, they led both committee's in updating the Association's official documents. They were recognized for realignment of OLA's constitution, bylaws and handbook. Thank you both for your service to the profession.



Casey Lowry, Web Developer

Conference Presentations

Grass will never grow under Shay's feet as she stays way too busy. In addition to all the other things she's been doing, a trip to the Joint Utah Library Association-Mountain Plains Library Association Annual Conference, in Salt Lake City this May will have her presenting, "Inclusive Metadata: What It Is, Isn't, and Other Things Catalogers Want You to Know." Good luck Shay!



*Shay Beezley, Assistant Director of
Metadata and Cataloging*

Kaylen Buchanan

Kaylen Buchanan, new Library Specialist in the Innovation Studio, boasts a psychology degree from Oklahoma State University and is nearing completion of her master's in Information and Library Science at the University of Oklahoma. Beyond her profession, Kaylen is an avid reader and nature lover, frequently immersed in books or outdoor exploration. Her passion for plants indoors and out reflects her deep appreciation for nature.

In the Innovation Studio, Kaylen thrives on continuous learning and creativity, aspiring to lead programming initiatives for teens and children. Originally from Claremore, Oklahoma, she now resides in OKC. Despite the antics of her three cats, who have a penchant for pilfering hair ties, Kaylen's affection for her feline companions knows no bounds. With her dedication, Kaylen is set to make a significant impact in the library field. Welcome aboard, Kaylen; we're thrilled to have you join our team.



Kaylen Buchanan, Library Specialist

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Siobhan Murray

Siobhan Murray had two nominations both sharing, Siobhan comes to work everyday with a smile and a positive attitude, always willing to help where ever it is needed. Siobhan's main responsibility is maintenance of the library's physical collections. One nominator said, her attention to detail and ability to initiate improvements make her a valuable member of the team. She also fills in at the Information Desk when coverage is low, which is especially crucial when illness strikes or student workers need off to address more pressing priorities. At the same time Siobhan was serving the library she was also pursuing a nursing degree. She graduated last semester and has moved on to her dream job. Good luck Siobhan with your new career. You will be missed by students and staff.



Heather Scheele-Clark

Heather Scheele-Clark, library archives specialist, was nominated for her dedication to making the Library's Special Collections accessible. Because of her passion for sharing history, Heather works hard processing collections including sorting, inventorying, preserving, and describing materials. Once collections are processed Heather creates finding aids and research guides to help students and scholars understand what can be found in the collection. Her tireless efforts in making our collections accessible to all embody the spirit of excellence we strive for in the library. It was a great day when Heather returned from maternity leave in April. We are so glad to welcome her back. Congratulations Heather on a well-deserved honor! We look forward to many more years of your invaluable service and dedication.



STUDENT EMPLOYEE OF THE SEMESTER

Madison Fischer

With three nominations, Madison Fischer, was our student worker of the Fall 2023 semester. Madison was described by all three nominators as extremely reliable, efficient, and always willing to help where needed. Her work processing materials received by acquisitions and cataloging keeps workflows running smoothly. Madison was also credited with training new student workers. One nominator said, "Madison is diligent in her work, demonstrates good interpersonal skills and is a highly valued asset to the Library." Congratulations Madison and thank you for all your hard work.

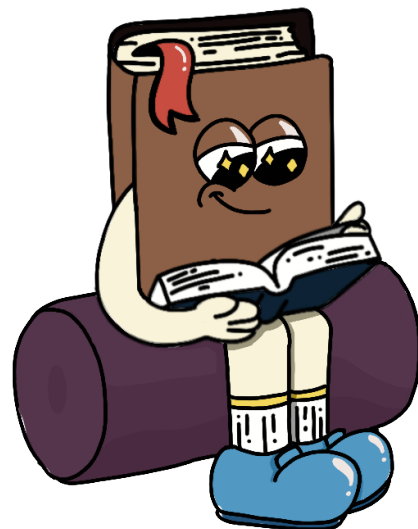


Donation Request

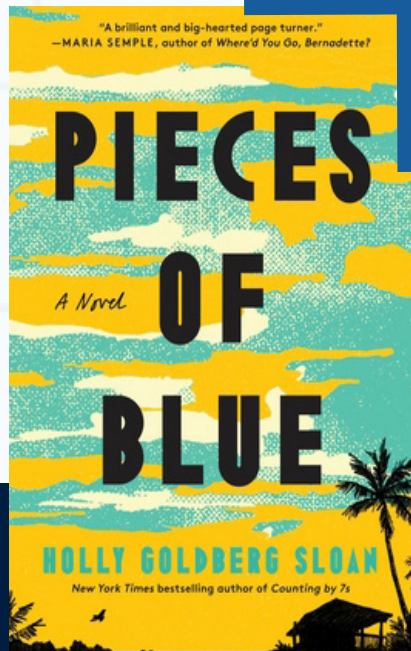
As we approach the end of another academic year, many of us may find ourselves sorting through our offices, preparing for retirement, or simply decluttering our workspaces. In the spirit of sustainability and community support, we invite you to consider donating any books or electronic devices you no longer need or want to the Max Chambers Library.

The Chambers Library welcomes donations of books across various genres and subjects. Whether they are textbooks, novels, or reference materials they can enrich our collections. Your old electronics particularly old phones, routers, wireless speakers, gaming consoles and accessories can be turned into new books for our collections. Your contributions can enrich our collections and benefit our students and faculty.

If you have items to donate, please contact Jeff Musslewhite at jmusslewhite@uco.edu, or call (405) 974-2870 to arrange a drop-off or pickup. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and make a meaningful difference on the success of the Max Chambers Library.



BOOK REVIEWS



Title: **Pieces of Blue**

Author: Holly Goldberg Sloan

Reviewer: Jean Longo

The Hill family has experienced a devastating blow when Paul drowns while surfing. He leaves them in financial ruin and struggling to make ends meet until his life insurance policy allows them to turn their lives around. Lindsey moves her three children Olivia, Carlos and Sena, from Portland Oregon to Hawaii where she has purchased a remote motel. The Mau Loa Motel is handed over to Lindsey and the previous owners promptly leave town leaving her to discover how much work needs to be done before she can reopen it to the public. Her kids are adjusting well to school and life on the beach. Lindsey is overwhelmed by what needs to be done but things look up with the arrival of a handsome widower who is handy with electrical repairs. This is an absorbing story with a couple of surprises that draw you in even more.

CHAMBER OF BOOKS STORE

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