John George Collection: Political Extremism

The John George Collection, named after former UCO Political Science Prof. John George, is one of the largest and most diverse collections on political extremism in the United States. The collection was originally donated in 2000 when Dr. George retired after 30 years teaching at UCO.

Known as a superb teacher and insightful, productive scholar, George was an acknowledged expert on political extremist movements and terrorism. He was interviewed internationally; was on the Today Show and was called to testify before congress to share his knowledge of militia groups after the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building. He authored six books, two dealing specifically with groups on the political fringes of society.

Although George saw the importance of his work as an expert witness, teaching was always a top priority for him, “I consider research and publication important but not half as important as teaching,” he said in one interview. One of his students remarked, “His classes were like an intellectual explosion that left you thinking.”

George’s dedication to teaching was rewarded in 1994, when George was named Oklahoma Political Science Scholar of the year.

Logic is a tool George tried to teach students. He says about teaching, “The first thing I try to do is make people think. I also try to get them to be objective. Then I try to teach them a little about working their mind in a logical way, which most people don’t.”

He had keen insights into the mind saying, “People can’t be objective because nearly everything they do is based on emotion and how things fit into what they already think. As a result most people never bother to question their own assumptions or question the ideas with which there were brought up.” His goal is to get people interested in the world around them and stimulate their intellectual curiosity.

While George taught a variety of political science courses, his academic interest covered a broad spectrum, ranging from sociology of sports to paranormal phenomena. His knowledge on these subjects made George a desirable guest on TV and radio talk shows and as a sought-after lecturer for civic, political and religious groups.

Described by his friends as a Renaissance man, trivia expert, and practical joker with a good sense of humor, George was often heard quoting the eleventh commandment, “Thou shall not take thyself too seriously.” He was as committed to humor as he was to free speech, equality and justice. He was against smoking in public places and infringing on other people’s rights, environment and politics.

He credited his wife, Dr. Treva George, for many of his successes. Treva served as research assistant and editor of his books. She said, “It was hard to argue with John because he’s so logical and because he has many facts at

Continued on page 2
his fingertips. She also acknowledged, “One of his admirable traits is that when he’s wrong he’ll admit it.” A man of all seasons, Dr. George retired with his wife Treva to Carlsbad, CA. in 2000 where he lost his battle with cancer on November 21, 2008.

This collection is a compilation of rare and unique materials covering a wide range of fringe political movements. The collection covers 1900-2010, years when the world saw the formation of several civil rights movements. It also encompasses the rise and fall of a number of peripheral groups deemed “extreme” or “radical” by contemporaries, such as anti-Catholic, anti-Semitic, anti-war, communist, socialist, creationist, environmentalist, Holocaust denial, new left, survivalist, white supremacist, and white nationalists. The collection features an extensive library of over 600 volumes, 235 serial titles, many of which are extremely rare, and 4 linear feet of vertical files. The collection contains materials on both “Right Wing” and “Left Wing” groups. Newsletter and journals identified with the “Right Wing” include the Conservative, Patriotic, Anti-Communist, Libertarian, Pro-Family, Anti-abortion, Ethnic (White) Nationalist, Gun Rights, Free Market and many others. The “Left Wing” materials, while not as extensive, express the values, opinions and beliefs of such groups as the Liberals, Socialists, Radicals, Revolutionaries, Feminists, Gays, Marxists, Anti-War, Environmentalists, and Ethnic (Minority) Nationalists.

To find more information about this collection and others held by the Chambers Library, Archives and Special Collections go to library.uco.edu/archives or call 405-974-2882.

I consider research and publication important but not half as important as teaching

When the campus closed and classes moved online we were faced with questions about how those decisions would affect the library. At first we reduced hours and access opening only the 1st and 2nd floors. Then with the closure of the physical campus on March 26, as faculty and students shifted to a completely online environment we did too.

In some ways it was business as usual. To our advantage we have had a digital infrastructure in development for over twenty years. So we were able to pivot to the digital library as the exclusive mode of delivery and continue to provide a high level of service and have actually added some services.

Among the added services is the scanning of physical items the Library owns but is not able to acquire in digital format or from another library because of closures due to the current health crisis. A statement from Library Copyright Specialists provided guidance for U.S colleges and universities about how copyright law applies to the many facets of remote teaching, learning and research in wake of the COVID-19 outbreak.

After a review of some case precedent their statement assured, “The fair use doctrine accommodates the flexibility required by our shared public health crisis, enabling society to function and progress while protecting human life and safety.” In other words the U.S. copyright law is, thankfully, well equipped to provide the flexibility necessary for the vast majority of remote learning needed during this time.

With this clarity, the only decision we had to make was how to facilitate this service. Our ILL system was the logical solution. So if you need a physical item the library owns go to the ILL system and request it. We will first attempt to get it in digital format and from another library. If neither is successful we will make a copy for you and deliver it through email. So until we are together again, let us know what physical item you need and we will find the best way to deliver it.
Friends of Chambers Library

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

Library Benefactor
Walter & Judy Jones
Melton Family

Presidential Partner
McConathy Family
Habib Tabatabai
Nicole Willard

Library Patron
Richard Avery
Glen Gee
Lee Tyner
Allen Wise

Library Partner
Teresa Ferrell
Elizabeth Jones
The Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma

Library Contributor
Donna Ballard
Carol Barry
Lori Beasley
Mary Bond
James Cummings
Kenneth & Mrs. Dacus
Robert Epstein
ExxonMobil Foundation
IBM Corporation
Kendra Highley
Randal & Kimberly Ice
Jeffrey & Suzy Lytle
Michael McClendon
David Macey, Jr.
Carolyn Mahin
Carolyn Messick
Rozilyn Miller
Margaret Musgrove
Larry & Yvonne Muslewhite
Bob Patterson, Jr.
Carol Quenzer
Michele Ramsdell
Brett Sharp
Shikoh Shiraiwa
Suzanne Silvester
Joseph & Mrs. Smoliga
Jessica Sheetz-Nguyen
Deborah Thompson

Community
Julie Baker
Heather Dewberry
Steven Dunn
Sherrie Furber
Seth & Caroline Gregory
Frances Harbert
Stuart Harvey
Jerimie Hubert
Gladys Klassen
Richard & Mrs. Klinge
Jacquelyn Payne Kyle
Janice Levi
Tyrell Maten
Jeffrey Muslewhite
Linda Sealey-Holtz
Mary Sheets
Grace Vance
Todd Wooden
Steven White
Shawn Wright

Supporting
Jenan Alleman
Shay Beezley
Carrie Bond
Equalla Brothers
Brian Buckley
Cheryl Frech
Tamara Grigg
Roland Herwig
Ted Honea
Dana Jackson-Hardwick
Sazzad Kazi
Charles Melson
Maria-Theresa Moinette
G. Steven & Mrs. Osborn
Thomas Poston
Mandana Roshan
David & Cynthia Sapper
Luci Seem
Kevin & Carole Sites-Walker
Stepheny Smith
Robert & Barbara Streets
Stephanie Tatum
Janette Wetsel
Lane Whitesell
Traca Wolfe

Library Hours
The physical Library is closed through May 31, 2020. Hours for when we reopen are yet to be determined.

Max Chambers Library
100 N. University Dr.
Campus Box 192
Edmond, Oklahoma 73034
Phone: (405) 974-2885
Fax: (405) 974-3806
library.uco.edu
Virtual Library Information

Database Access
In an effort to support the alternative delivery methods many universities have switched to, some of our vendors, like JSTOR and EBSCO, are offering unprecedented access to collections. EBSCO is waiving user limits when ever possible, ensuring unlimited access to ebooks by upgrading us to unlimited-user access through June 30, 2020, for a growing list of publishers. Also through EBSCO, Harvard Business Publishing is offering free unlimited user access to the Harvard Business Review eBook Collection until May 31, 2020. This unique collection includes monographs, seminal works, and article compilations of the HBR Classic series.

Another vendor, JSTOR, is offering free access to Special Collections of over 35,000 eBooks through June 30, 2020. We have also added a link on our database page to the National Emergency Library, a temporary collection of books that support emergency remote teaching, research, independent scholarship and intellectual stimulation. For more information contact libraryresearch@uco.edu.

Access to Physical Items
Let us know if you need access to our physical materials, particularly items on reserve. We are scanning and emailing pages to assist students and faculty during the campus closure. In addition, if you need a book the Library only has in print, when possible we will try to purchase an electronic version. If that is not possible we will scan the physical item and send it through email. We are using our ILL system to facilitate these requests. Place your request at ILL Login.

Resources Through ILL
Interlibrary Loan is currently not able to fill requests for physical items located at other libraries. We are still attempting to fill requests for electronic articles and book chapters where lending libraries are open. You can make a request by email to ill@uco.edu or by signing into the ILL login page and submitting a form.

Research Assistance
As always Research & Learning librarians are available to provide help via chat and email. You can also schedule a virtual appointment with one of our experts. Reach out to us at libraryresearch@uco.edu

Not UCO’s first Pandemic Closure
Vista, Feb 14, 1919

"WHY IS IT"
‘That Central teachers are so eager to make up the time lost through closing school on account of Influenza’" writes a citizen of Oklahoma to The Vista. He goes on to remark that he has heard of no great demand that church services, sermons, prayer meetings, operas, suppers, entertainments, etc. be made up. ‘Then why should the school teacher make up the time?’ he queries.

The Vista doesn’t know everything, but believes Central to be logical and practical in the action she has taken. It will be remembered that Central was closed three weeks, or fifteen days, on account of the influenza epidemic. Immediately on taking up the school work after the epidemic had subsided, President Graves called the faculty together for a conference on the question of how best to make up the time. It was the unanimous desire of the faculty to make up the time.

First, the President and faculty of Central desired to test out the six day school week. Second, the President and faculty could not quite reach the conclusion that a term ought to be cut short when there might be a way to avoid it. Third, Central’s students were almost unanimous in wishing the lost time made up.

The result has been most satisfactory. The faculty have been perfectly happy to teach six days a week during the Winter Term; the young people have enjoyed each of the six days as well as each of the regular five days; and—not a moral, but the truth— BETTER school work has been done this Winter term than in any previous term in the memory of those faculty members who have been heard to remark on the subject!

Such are the reasons for, and the results of, Central’s action.
Don’t Touch My Hair: An Ode to Black Girls Everywhere
Art Exhibition and Opening Reception, February 12, 2020

The Archives & Special Collections hosted an art exhibition in celebration of Black History Month, February 12th, on the 1st floor of Chambers Library. The art exhibit, Don’t Touch My Hair: An Ode to Black Girls Everywhere, and three guest speakers addressed issues surrounding the trending topic of Black hair. Tuesdae Pelt-Willis, Co-Manager of UCO’s Women’s Research Center, shed light on the historical context of Black hair, the cultural appropriation of Black hair aesthetics, and the recent natural hair movement in the United States.

Author and photographer Gay Pasley read her essay “African Blush,” the emotional story (and background for her photograph in the exhibit by the same name) of her life-long journey to find women who look like her.

Finally, journalist and local civil rights icon Ayanna Najuma recalled a few memorable experiences regarding some of her past hair choices, particularly during her college years. Najuma ended with a call to action for everyone in attendance to step out of their comfort zone, learn something new, and continue to expand their minds. The guest speakers offered an informative, moving, and energetic narrative that coincided nicely with the artwork that was on display through the end of March.

In addition to Pasley’s photograph, the art exhibit included works by local artists Edward Grady, Nathan Lee, Beverly Kirk, and Skip Hill. Two collaborative works, one by D.B. Brown & G. Mesfin and another by Jaive Farrell & James Ere were also on display.

The paintings by Edward Grady and Skip Hill were from the Melton Art Reference Library Collection, part of the UCO Archives & Special Collections’ growing body of visual art. The other pieces were on loan from the artists.

The opening reception was well attended drawing many people from the community in addition to a large number of UCO students, faculty, and staff. The event was a collaboration between the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, the Women’s Center and the Chambers Library. The Friends of Chambers Library generously provided refreshments for the celebration.
Faculty Book and Materials Grant Winners

We had several great submissions for this year’s Faculty Book & Materials Grant, making it hard to select winners. FOL supports growth in needed areas of the Library’s collection by awarding two $1000 grants to faculty who identify significant gaps in the Library’s collections. This year’s winners were Amanda Horton and Sam Washington from the UCO School of Design for their joint submission requesting user experience and user interface design books. In their submission they explained that, “Since the release of the first smart phone in 2007 these industries have transformed the graphic design field, particularly in the areas of web and app design.” With UCO looking to grow the curriculum in these areas it’s important the Library have materials to support this expansion.

Winner of the second grant was Dr. Cynthia Johnson, Asst. Prof. in the Department of English. Her proposal recommended titles that represent the intersecting fields of Technical Communications and Digital Writing. Johnson is a new faculty member hired in large part to grow the existing Technical Communications program. She indicated in the submission her students, “were struggling to access research materials they need for various projects.” This was a critical factor in the judges’ decision to select this proposal.

A reception to recognize and honor our grant winners was scheduled for April 23, 2020. Due to the campus closure the event was canceled. We will reschedule the reception during the fall semester when we can be together again and celebrate our winners. Congratulations to our winners and thank you to everyone who took the time to submit a proposal.

Membership Drive

Every November FOL has a membership drive to increase our ability to support the Chambers Library. This year as an incentive to join we gave away a pair of Amazon Echo Earbuds. To be entered in the drawing you had to join as a new member or increase your giving levels if you were an existing member. Overall the drive was a success with twelve new joins and eleven renewals. The winner of the drawing was UCO staff member Jeff Musslewhite who works in the Advancement & Communication Department of the Library. Congratulations Jeff!

The FOL benefits the Chambers Library in many ways. We fill gaps in the collection through faculty book grants; we sponsor cultural events that educate and illuminate; we provide students support with contests, giveaways and free finals week activities; and we keep the UCO community informed about all things Library through the FOL newsletter. We want to thank everyone who supported the FOL membership drive this past year. Together with the support of the UCO community we make the Library a better place for everyone.

Jeff Musslewhite
In early April we were looking for a creative idea to cheer up students during the pandemic. We thought it would be fun for students to show us their book faces. After thorough research, we launched our very first #BookFace contest that ran from April 13-19, 2020.

During the contest we reached 1813 people with a single post, had 677 engagements, nearly 200 comments, and 11 lovely contestants who were competing for two awesome prizes. The rules were simple enough; like our Facebook page, and upload an image with your #BookFace. The winner and runner up were selected based on the number of likes they received.

Congratulations to our winner, Daniela Arvizu, a junior majoring in Mass Communication/Professional Media who won with a total of 233 likes. She took home a brand new Fire Tablet 8" HD, 16 GB.

Our runner up was C. Vanessa Avalos, a senior majoring in Elementary Education with a total of 215 likes. She took home a brand new Fire TV Stick streaming media player.

We want to thank all those who took the time to participate in our #BookFace contest. We hope you too, will like our social media pages, and share them with your friends.

The Library being closed did not stop finals week activities. The FOL partnered with Ellis Island Coffee Shop and Hideaway Pizza to sponsor some giveaways. The giveaways started with 30-$5.00 gift cards to Ellis Island Coffee Shop, which were gone within four hours of the giveaway’s start. A few days’ later 90-$5.00 gift cards to Hideaway Pizza were given away. The pizza gift cards were even more popular disappearing in less than two hours. Good Luck Broncho’s on finals!
One of the best ways we can make a positive impact on the world is by recycling. It is important for the environment and for future generations. The amount of waste we produce is increasing at an alarming rate, thus it’s important to take a second and rethink what we can do differently to change that for a better, greener world.

One place we can start is with plastic bags. Plastic bags, which can be recycled if thrown away in the proper bin, are one of the biggest environmental problems. Worldwide companies produce over one trillion of these bags per year. Plastic does not decompose and they release an incredible amount of toxin into the air if they’re burned. Can you imagine that? It is not too late to do something but it all starts with us. We often use the excuse recycling is hard, but it’s really not that complicated. It only takes about 10 seconds to read a label and dispose of products properly.

About 95 percent of what we recycle gets reused. Plastic bottles are being transformed into all sorts of things, including garments at high end fashion retailers. New fabrics such as tencell and liocell are being made in order to reduce the use of chemically treated cotton from the fields. Fashion and farm industries around the world are trying a new fully organic cotton breed. Companies have worked for nearly a decade to achieve these new sustainable fabrics to reduce their carbon footprint. These changes can result in clean rivers and water again, but we must do our part too.

Recycling saves energy, time and money as factories no longer have to use raw materials to make their products. It conserves our resources while at the same time preserving natural habitats and wildlife. Paper recycling alone can save millions of trees from being cut down every year, trees we need to purify the air. That sure sounds like a great reason to start recycling.

Fortunately our campus is committed to recycling, and this makes a significant impact on our community. Paper, plastic and aluminum bins are being placed around common areas at UCO to help us make better decisions about where we throw our trash. The Library has placed recycle bins at the south entrance and at other locations around the building. We hope on Earth Day you make the recycling change to help us be a better, brighter and greener campus.

For tips on recycling go to our Facebook page www.facebook.com/ucolibrary, where you can see our weekly posts on the topic, or visit our website https://library.uco.edu/ to search for articles on recycling. We hope that you start reducing, reusing, recycling, repairing and rethinking today!
Meet Cory Castoe.

Cory, a Library Specialist in Stacks Management began working at the Chambers Library in January of 2013. That same year he graduated from UCO earning his BS in General Studies, with a minor in English.

In the fall of 2017 Cory entered OU’s school of Library and Information Studies. After three long years he will graduate in May with a Master’s degree in Information and Library Science. Recently, Cory completed his portfolio defense. With a 4.0 GPA it was no surprise when he defended with distinction. One of his professors even asked for Cory’s permission to utilize his portfolio as an outstanding example of how to organize and personalize a portfolio.

Currently, Cory lives just outside of Edmond with his wife, three kids, a dog, one rat, two guinea pigs, and five feral cats. He is an avid collector of audio cassettes and VHS tapes, and enjoys comics, reading, and movies. Congratulations Cory, well done! We are so proud of your achievement!

New Ph.D. in the Library

Beth Jones who serves as Director of Library Technology & Data Management, successfully defended her dissertation in March. In May she will graduate from the University of North Texas with an interdisciplinary Ph.D. degree in Information Science. Beth came to work at the Chambers Library in 2017 and has been a great addition to the Library’s leadership team. Congratulations Beth! We are so proud of you! We are humbled by your outstanding achievement!

Valentine’s Bake Sale

Another Sweet Day in the Library

Once a year the Library has a Valentine’s Day Bake sale to support Friends of the Chambers Library. This year was no exception as we had several staff members who supported our bake sale by bringing an array of yummy treats for us to sell. With Valentine’s Day falling on a Friday this year we decided to have our sale the day before. Friday is not usually one of our busier times. It was a good strategy because we sold out of everything. Not one morsel was left at the end of the day.

Thanks to the staff who make this event possible we were able to raise $246 for FOL. We are grateful to those staff members who contribute their time supplying baked goods, setting up and working the event and then purchasing the items. Library staff are our biggest customers. It was just another sweet day in the Library.

New Library Faculty Senator

The Library recently elected a new faculty senator. Kirsten Davis, will serve a two year term representing the Library. Kirsten graduated from OU’s School of Library and Information Science in 2008 and the same year began working at the Chambers Library. She serves as Application Administrator for Alma, the Library’s management system.

Recently Kirsten's role was expanded to include supervision of the Innovation Studio, the Library's emerging technology makerspace. Always looking for ways to improve she is currently completing UCO’s Management Development Program.

In her free time Kirsten loves building jigsaw puzzles and traveling internationally. She is looking forward to her third trip to England hopefully this summer. Thank you Kirsten for stepping up to serve the Library and the university community. We are fortunate to have you as a part of our team!

LUCO Graduates

Two professionals from the Library participated in Leadership UCO this year. Shaye Caban, Web Developer and Jennifer Flygare, Online Studies Librarian will graduate in May as part of LUCO Class 16.

In addition, Shaye is completing a 3 year term on the Sequoyah Children's Book Award Committee. Awarded by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, it honors Native American leader Sequoyah for his unique achievement in creating the Cherokee syllabary. Thank you Shaye and Jennifer for your commitment to UCO and your service to the community.
New Employees

Kristi Kohl

In January Kristi Kohl began working in the Archives and Special Collections as a Library Archivist Specialist. Kristi comes to UCO with an extensive background working at several public, private and academic libraries and museums. Kristi holds a BS in Psychology with a double minor in Sociology and Art.

In 2010 she earned a MLIS from Louisiana State University. Her past experience includes serving in the roles of researcher, cataloger, curator and systems administrator. She is uniquely qualified to work in the Archives and Special Collections and will be curating art exhibitions and developing educational programming utilizing the Library’s Special Collections. In addition, she will be managing the provenance files of UCO’s art collections.

Kristi lives in Edmond with her husband and high school sweetheart Erik. They have one daughter, Dresden, who is currently a student at the University of Arkansas and one furbaby, Scruffy, a multicolor Maltese-Shih Tzu mix. Kristi is originally from Wisconsin but spent her formative years in Georgia. With many interests Kristi stays busy. She enjoys cycling, and plans to complete her first century (100 miles) ride this year. A 68 mile ride through the hills of the Arbuckle's is her longest ride to date. Help me welcome Kristi to UCO. She is already making a significant contribution.

Christine Edwards

Christine was selected Employee of the Quarter for the 1st quarter of the year. Her nominator emphasized, “Christine adds an incredible amount of value to our library by providing unparalleled service to our patrons, and support for her colleagues. Christine has an undeniable passion for helping people and works non-stop to give our students the knowledge and skills to succeed. She has always taken on additional responsibilities in areas such as supervising, committee work, campus and community involvement, and keeps the same high level of dedication in everything she does. Christine is an exceptional librarian and colleague, and sets an example that inspires those around her.” We want to congratulate Christine and thank her for her service.

Luci Seem

Winner of the 2nd quarter, Employee of the Quarter, was Luci Seem. Luci has worked at the Library for over 10 years. Her nominator expressed that, “Luci’s role changed drastically from Multimedia Specialist to Innovation Studio Specialist/Extraordinaire. Luci has put in a tremendous amount of work in making the Innovation Studio a success and deserves to be recognized for that work. Throughout this transition, Luci has maintained her kindness, her congeniality, and handled the ups and downs of rolling out a new department and service with grace. Her natural creative inclination is and will continue to be an asset to the Studio’s success.” Congratulations Luci, for a well-earned accolade!

Kaitlyn Palone

Our 3rd quarter winner of Employee of the Quarter is Kaitlyn Palone. Kaitlyn is a professional Librarian providing cataloging and metadata expertise to the Metadata and Cataloging Department. She also performs complex copy cataloging of library resources and does collection development for Mass Communications and Political Science. Her nominator stated, “Kaitlyn has helped me many times with questions I have. She is always helpful and kind. Plus, she is fun and a ray of sunshine in our department.” Kaitlyn always has a smile on her face and a kind word for everyone. This is a well-deserved honor, congratulations Kaitlyn!
New Employees Continued...

Nataliya Paskova

Nataliya is the newest member of the Library’s Advancement & Communications team. She will be serving as marketing assistant and will be managing the Library’s social media channels. Nataliya is very well connected on campus having worked in Student Affairs and University Communications. She graduated from UCO in 2009 with a BA in Broadcasting Mass Communications. Nataliya is a social media influencer, owning several Facebook pages as well as a vlog on YouTube with over 13K subscribers. She maintains several websites, including one for people who suffer from type 2 diabetes. As a vlogger, blogger, trainer, coach, mentor and creator she influences the lives of many people every day!

Moving from Bulgaria to Edmond with her husband Stan, who works as Surplus Property Coordinator for UCO’s Physical Plant, they have lived here for 6 years with their 3 cats, Koliyo, Ellie and Archie. With a wide range of interests, Nataliya loves travel, photography, art, music, coffee and winter sports. She is a sustainability ambassador for H&M, which achieved 2nd place world ranking in sustainable fashion after she joined. Nataliya comes from the land of yogurt, rose oil and the Cyrillic alphabet and is of Thracian descent. We are excited to have Nataliya working for the Library. She’s already making a positive impact by increasing the Library’s following on all our social media platforms.

Book Reviews

Title: Mozart’s Starling
Author: Lyanda Haupt
Chambers Library  Call Number: ML410.M9 H38 2018
Reviewer: Jean Longo, Research & Learning

Shopping in a local Viennese market, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart heard a tune that was very familiar to him. It turned out that the shop had a starling for sale that sang a portion of his Piano Concerto Number 17 in G. That would begin a wonderful relationship as Mozart brought the starling, Star, home to his family. Gifted author Lyanda Lynn Haupt heard about this relationship and decided to adopt a starling of her own. She wrote a book telling the story of Mozart’s relationship with his bird and the experience of raising her own starling, Carmen.

She intertwines stories of Mozart’s beloved pet and her own Carmen. She found Carmen intelligent and playful. Haupt traveled to Austria to see Mozart’s birthplace and study his notebooks that mention he purchased a bird and transcribed both versions of the tune. This book was a delight to read and changed my opinion of starlings.

Title: My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She’s Sorry
Author: Fredrik Backman
Chambers Library  Ruby Canton Collection - 1st Floor Southeast
PR6068 O93 C36 2015
Reviewer: Jean Longo, Research & Learning

Elsa, who is almost eight, has been pleased to have a grandmother who told her fantastic stories. Granny has made her a knight in the Land-of-Almost-Awake and tells her about the Kingdom of Miamas. Granny is Elsa’s best and only friend but unfortunately, Granny dies.

When she dies she leaves behind a series of letters apologizing to everyone she has hurt. And, she has requested that Elsa deliver all the letters to each individual. Elsa is grief stricken by her death and also has to deal with being bullied at school and living in a house full of misfits. Yet she takes on this task trying to be brave.
The Library’s New Study Space