



2022

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS LIBRARIES

# ***ANNUAL REVIEW***

2023

**KU**  
**LIBRARIES**

The University of Kansas

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*Carol E. Smith*

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### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

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Content & Photography

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*Wendy Conover*  
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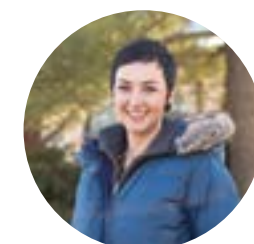


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## A MESSAGE FROM LIBRARIES LEADERSHIP

I could not be more delighted to present this issue of *Annual Review*, a report on the work and accomplishments of KU Libraries over the past year. Inside these pages, we delve into a rich tapestry of life being woven on a daily basis within and beyond our library walls. We explore stories of people arriving and people departing, people engaging with each other, and people coming together to create, to share, and to celebrate. The central narrative within this report resounds clearly: Libraries are human-centered. Libraries, ultimately, are about and for people.

In his 2018 work “Palaces for the People,” sociologist Eric Klinenberg characterizes libraries as “critical social infrastructure.” His focus is on public libraries, museums, and parks, but I assert that his message holds equally true for academic research libraries. Libraries of all types are hubs of connection, enlightenment, and empowerment. Libraries believe in the power of each individual and uphold their quests to realize their full potential as community members. Libraries facilitate relationships, foster dialogue, and encourage the free exchange of ideas. Libraries defend the rights of all to access resources that



enhance individual lives and advance collective aspirations. KU Libraries — your KU Libraries — are truly critical social infrastructure for the entire university and broader learning community.

I trust you’ll enjoy as much as I did this showcase of the many ways KU Libraries uplift our shared humanity and exemplify the essence of libraries as “Palaces for the People.” As your new dean, please also know that my door is always an open one, and I welcome any feedback you may have.

*Carol E. Smith*

Carol E. Smith  
Dean of Libraries



# SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY

*Student ambassador enjoys being part of ‘something bigger’ through KU Libraries*

As a student of philosophy and English, Weston Curnow has a deep appreciation for truth, ideas, and the written word — values that formed a natural connection to KU Libraries. The senior from Kansas City has been a consistent user of library materials and spaces during his time at KU, and through his participation in the KU Libraries Student Ambassador Program (KULSAP) contributes to be part of “something bigger than [himself].”

Curnow came to KU in the fall of 2020, a time when the library stacks were closed to browsing and services were limited due to the pandemic.

“My first experience with the libraries was frustration,” Curnow said. “I came into the building and there were big red X’s on all the doors. You couldn’t look in the stacks, and the call number organization system for materials confused me.”

Curnow gave up on the library for a while, avoiding visits and usage — but eventually he needed a book for class that he couldn’t find elsewhere. He asked library staff for assistance ordering it and was able to pick it up quickly and easily at the service desk.

“That experience was really good,” he said. “And once I started using the library, I started to realize the wealth

of material and support we have here. I started to think about how I could contribute and be a part of that.”

KULSAP was the perfect opportunity for Curnow to further connect with the libraries. A platform for student involvement and leadership, the group is a collaboration between students and library leaders, focusing on student input to enhance library services, programming, and facilities.

“Working with the libraries through KULSAP is participating in something bigger than myself but also something that I as an individual benefit from,” Curnow said.

He sees his participation in KULSAP as part of a long thread of stewardship and investment in the foundational values shared by the libraries and university.

“Historically the university was created amid the struggles of surviving in a new place, growing food and making homes, and organizing government. It shows the aspirations of Lawrence and the State of Kansas that in the midst of all that, there was someone employed by the State teaching Attic Greek on Mt. Oread,” Curnow said, inspired by the idea. “Wow, I want to help steward that legacy.”

Curnow will embark on his third year of service in KULSAP during the

2023-24 school year, his final year at KU. After graduation in the spring, he plans to seek a master’s degree in divinity and pursue ordination in the Episcopal Church, eventually serving in the parochial ministry, a position that feels central to who he is and combines many of his interests, including scholarship, community, and pride of place.

“Being with people; being there for people. You’re in the room where it happens, immersed in the first principle of everything,” Curnow said. “The whole thing excites me, even the challenges.”

Curnow sees the libraries as an essential part of his university experience, with benefits he’ll carry with him on the next part of his journey.

“What does a library do? It nourishes all the parts of a person,” Curnow said. “It nourishes civic needs, positioning you within this larger collective body that gives of itself for the sake of the community. It nourishes you spiritually as you plug yourself into this aspect of learning that’s so much bigger than you, reading books written 10, 20, or even hundreds of years before you were born, and you’re still learning from them. A library ministers to all the parts of you.” ■

# SERVING STUDENTS

*Creating community and opportunity for Jayhawks*



## SOLIDIFYING STUDENT ADVISORY CONTRIBUTIONS

The KU Libraries Student Ambassadors Program (KULSAP) exists to promote student input and involvement in library services and programming. The student advisory committee took another step forward during the 2022-23 academic year by adopting a constitution and electing cabinet positions as part of the process to becoming an official student organization. The designation allows KULSAP access to student funding and to participate in campus-wide awareness, engagement and recruiting opportunities. KULSAP members provided input for KU Common Book programming and helped shape the reconfiguration of the “Start with Us” brochure for introducing libraries’ people, places, and services, which earned a national award for marketing materials.



## RECOGNIZING STUDENT EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE

Jenna Bellemere, a junior studying Anthropology and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and Belle Cersovsky, second-year undergraduate student studying Biological Anthropology, were honored as recipients of the Dean’s Award for Student Employee Excellence (DASEE) in June. The pair are part of 135 student workers who lend their efforts across all major offices and divisions of KU Libraries. With the support of faculty and staff supervisors, student employees have a significant impact on the work and reach of the libraries, putting in approximately 62,000 hours of service during the 2022-23 school year. All the libraries’ student workers were invited to a luncheon as part of the DASEE celebration. The annual DASEEs were established by former dean of KU Libraries Lorraine Haricombe to recognize the dedication and quality service student employees provide.



## FACILITATING CAMPUS CONVERSATIONS

“Parable of the Sower,” a dystopian science fiction novel by Octavia E. Butler highlighting climate change and social inequality, has been selected as KU’s Common Book for the 2023-24 academic year. The selection marks the 11<sup>th</sup> title for KU’s Common Book Program, which aims to build community among students, faculty, and staff; encourage intellectual engagement through reading and discussion; and create shared conversation about topics and issues of significance in today’s world. The KU Common Book program is presented through a partnership between KU Libraries, the Hall Center for the Humanities, and the Division of Academic Success.

## HEALTHY HABITS

KU Libraries shares its spaces and audience in efforts to support the mental well-being of students on campus. KU Counseling & Psychological Services and its Peer Support Network, a campus program in which graduate and undergraduate students train to become Mental Health Peer Educators, has an active weekly presence in Watson and Anschutz Libraries where they made more than 400 student interactions during the fall 2022 semester. Additionally, the libraries hosted the Health Education Resource Office’s Stress Busting Study Breaks during mid-terms and finals, complete with Loving Paws therapy dogs, drinks, snacks, and stress-busting kits.



## HONORING STUDENT BOOK COLLECTORS



The winners of the 65<sup>th</sup> annual Snyder Book Collecting Contest were announced in April with John Lubianetsky, a sophomore from Kansas City, Mo., winning first prize in the undergraduate division for his collection, “Utterly Free Books,” and Tiffani Hagan, doctoral student from Spartanburg, S.C., earning the top spot in the graduate division for her collection, “Shakespeare & Early Modern Occult Theatre.” The event featured keynote speaker, Sarah Henning, a Lawrence-area author and second-generation KU alum. Each winner received a cash prize and a gift card from contest co-sponsor Jayhawk Ink. Cash awards are made possible by an endowment fund created by Elizabeth Snyder.

# LIBRARY LEADERSHIP

*New Dean Carol E. Smith takes the helm at KU Libraries*

The search to hire a new Dean of Libraries was a critical part of the 2022-23 academic year. Carol E. Smith was selected as the new dean in the spring, taking over from Interim Co-Deans Scott Hanrath and Beth Whittaker, who led the libraries throughout the 12-month interval period.

Dean Smith comes to KU from the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colo., where she was University Librarian for the past seven years. Previously, she served as library director at Adams State University in Alamosa, Colo., and worked as the business librarian and technology initiatives librarian at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Mo. where she served as a tenured associate professor of library services. Prior to entering the library profession, Smith had a 15-year career in business, including positions in the oil industry and as vice-president of a successful information research firm.

The importance of libraries has always resonated with Smith, who spent many childhood days at her community library on Long Island, N.Y., where she cultivated a love of languages that propelled her to an undergraduate degree in Arabic from Binghamton University. She also holds a master's degree in information

systems and a master's degree in library and information science, both from Drexel University, and a graduate certificate in geographic information systems from the University of Central Missouri.

Smith's career shift to librarianship took place at the dawn of the digital age when rapid advances to the internet and mobile devices had many predicting that libraries would become obsolete — however, Smith was excited about the opportunities for libraries in that moment, seeing unique potential. She sees similar potential for libraries now, with the rapid expansion of new technologies that are changing the world.

"We have the opportunity to participate very actively in shaping the future," Smith said. "Libraries are ready to meet the challenges of the day and we have a major role to play."

In addition to the role of libraries in facilitating knowledge creation, they are a university's campus partners in all aspects of the curriculum and research. Libraries help spark powerful connections across campus and beyond, and Smith looks forward to leading "an extraordinary library at an extraordinary time."

Smith has a passion for cultivating international library partnerships and

has been in contact with colleagues around the world about continuing those relationships at KU, and she has been excited to learn about the relationships KU Libraries has developed over the years with international partners.

"We're all part of a global community," she said. "We need to be learning from each other on a global scale and helping each other on a global scale."

Collaboration is a key focus for Smith, who sees expansive partnership as one of the crucial elements to success in a changing world with a constantly shifting information landscape.

"Even a library system the size of KU's, with the largest collection in the state of Kansas, cannot attack these grand challenges on its own," Smith said. "No one library can do it, so it really is about partnerships and collaboration. KU Libraries is doing so many things so well, and the opportunity to build off of that already fantastic position of strength is highly appealing. Libraries need to collaborate for example, on wholly rethinking our discovery systems to better support users and a more inclusive, expansive view of the world." ■





# MAKING CONNECTIONS

## *Intensive week of cross-disciplinary collaboration propels research and teaching projects*

**A** reli Marina, associate professor of art history, had almost given up trying to wrangle the sprawling, multi-format data set that was stalling the momentum of her research.

Meanwhile, Sam Yates Meier, a multi-term lecturer in visual communications, faced the daunting and important task of re-examining a history and philosophy of design course through a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) lens.

Both struggled with complex questions to which KU Libraries helped provide answers via Sprints Week, a five-day intensive collaboration that supports KU faculty and academic staff to carry out research and build or redesign courses, producing a tangible outcome or product during the spring-summer intersession.

Faculty and academic staff from across the university submit proposals to take part in Sprints Week, and projects are selected each spring. Michael Peper, Head of KU Libraries' Center for Faculty & Staff Initiatives and Engagement, leads a team to organize the efforts. This year's projects relied on library expertise and resources surrounding digital humanities and pedagogical innovations, as well as librarians' knowledge of technology and web tools.

Marina's Sprint project focused on her research on medieval baptisteries, which are free-standing churches dedicated to baptism. Her extensive field work strongly suggested that long held assumptions about the architecture, geography, and timeline of the structures were incorrect, but she struggled with organizing a large, multi-

format data set to solidify and illustrate her discoveries.

"I'm building these patterns in my head, but I have no way of quickly sorting through what's a corpus now of 200 buildings," Marina said. "I have no way of doing that efficiently, and I also don't have a way to demonstrate my findings to other people."

Over a decade of research, Marina had amassed more than 15,000 photos, a similar-sized bibliographic archive and many notebooks teeming with handwritten field notes. She needed a way to organize her findings that showed the relationships between various forms of information — a task that seemed so unmanageable she considered giving up the project before learning of the KU Libraries' Sprints Week opportunity.

Marina was teamed with three KU librarians and the library's geographic information systems analyst. The group brainstormed solutions to challenges and ultimately helped Marina use an open-source content management system and web publishing platform that connects digital cultural heritage collections with other resources online.

"I cannot say thank you enough. [KU Libraries] have changed my life in five short days," Marina said during her presentation of the project on the last day of Sprints Week. "That is astonishing."

Marina emphasized the role of the librarians in her progress.

"It's not technology that did this for me," she said. "What did this for me was sitting in a room with four people who are deeply familiar with alternate ways of structuring information and other ways of visualizing information."

Meier's Sprints project involved analyzing a history and philosophy

of design course through the DEIB lens, including redesigning the course syllabus and assignments, as well as creating a digital timeline tool to aid in student learning.

While Meier initially came into the week focused on creating the structure for the visual timeline, the Sprints Week experience expanded her goals for the course including a few "aha moments," as she talked with her librarian team about the challenges of engaging large classes. Meier and the team of librarians developed new elements of the course that give students an opportunity to become more active participants in their learning, regardless of the size of the class.

"Whenever you look at solving that [large course] design challenge through the information literacy tools you can break things down," Meier said. "There's different ways to engage with students to take a 100-person lecture and make it feel a little more intimate."

Bringing KU Libraries insights into teaching is something Meier thinks every professor and instructor on campus should consider. Looking at her teaching alongside the librarians opened more possibilities for improving her students' learning and her own teaching beyond her Sprints project.

"With anything, I think diversity of thought makes things stronger," Meier said. "We had different perspectives, but whenever we brought them together that's when it expanded."

The end-of-week presentations, where Meier and Marina presented their work and shared their project outcomes, along with the week-long interaction between the two project groups, provided added benefit.

"I learned so much that I can use in my own teaching, course design, and class," Marina said. "It was a valuable intellectual experience in addition to what I learned from my own [research-focused] project." ■



# THE NEXT CHAPTER

## *Longtime University Archivist retires after four decades of memories at KU*

When Becky Schulte came to KU as a student in August 1973, a special connection to the libraries blossomed immediately via roots that had formed in her family tree. Schulte's uncle, John M. Nugent, was University Archivist at the time of Schulte's arrival to campus, and he encouraged her in her first KU Libraries job as a student employee at Watson Library. Schulte went on to enjoy a 42-year career at KU Libraries before retiring in June, nearly half of that time serving as University Archivist herself.

During her first year as an undergraduate at KU, Schulte lived with "Uncle John" who, like Schulte, worked for KU Libraries for more than 40 years. He served as Head of Circulation at Watson Library for decades and in the archivist role at Spencer Library from 1969 to 1993.

At first, Schulte didn't have any intention of following in her uncle's footsteps.

"I majored in Renaissance Humanities," Schulte said. "I was taking all these great classes learning about Queen Elizabeth and the Tudors and didn't really think about getting a job."

When she did start thinking about employment, Schulte's experience as a student worker in Course Reserves in Watson Library was a positive influence. As part of that role, Schulte gathered

library materials that instructors wanted to reserve for their classes, and she enjoyed being part of the life and work of the library.

Schulte graduated from KU in 1976 and decided to pursue a position as a clerk in the cataloging department in Watson, although it didn't work out exactly as she planned.

"I flunked the library clerk typist test," Schulte said. "I could only type like 32 words a minute and that was with mistakes. So, I was hired in a different position, as a Clerk II with some cataloging duties, then eventually promoted to Library Associate, but by the end of these jobs I knew I didn't want to be a cataloger. I wanted to be a reference librarian."

Schulte left KU in 1981 to pursue library school, graduating with a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin School of Library and Information Science. She returned to Kansas to work at the Kansas State Historical Society as part of the United States Newspaper Program, a hire she attributes to her cataloging knowledge from years working at Watson Library.

When an opportunity opened with KU Libraries three years later, Schulte jumped at the chance to return to campus, taking a position at Spencer Library working with the Kansas and Wilcox Collections. She became

Assistant Curator in 1990, the first head of Reader Services in 2000, and University Archivist in 2003.

Over the years and throughout each library role she fulfilled, Schulte said the people she worked with at KU were the most important part of her job.

"One of my favorite things about working at KU Libraries is all the people I've come to know," Schulte said. "Especially once I became the archivist, I got to work with so many people out in the university community in various departments, at Allen Fieldhouse, KU Endowment, and all over the university. Working with researchers, helping them connect with what they needed was very fulfilling as well. I also really liked working with our many student employees at the libraries and wish I'd kept a list of all of them."

Schulte said that although it's impossible to keep a truly complete history of any institution, the University Archives serve as a kind of collective memory for the university.

"As I've worked in the archives, I've come to realize that the information we have there is invaluable," she said. "So many things happen on a university campus, nobody can be aware of everything that's going on. But the archives is really the closest thing we have to that." ■



# AN EXPANDED EXPERIENCE

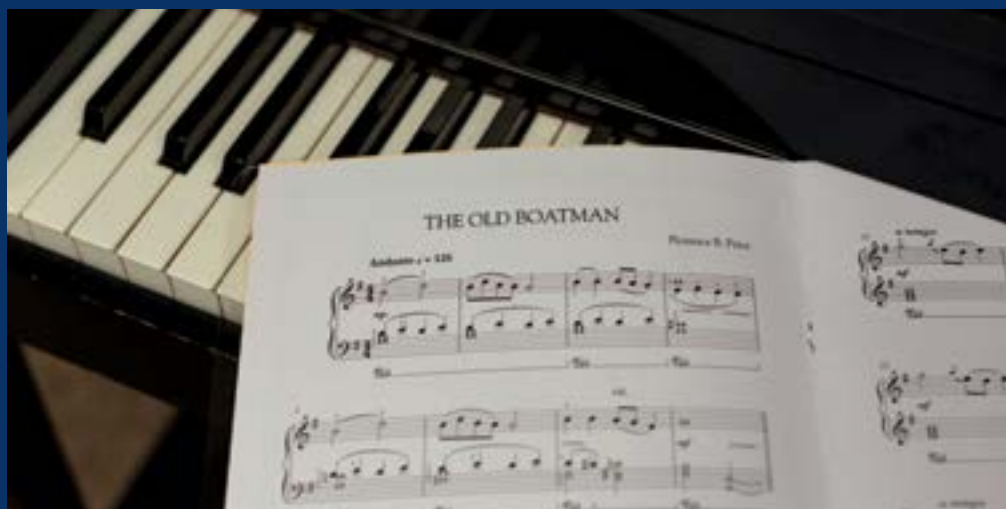
## Investment jump starts music diversification efforts

Outside the Gorton Music and Dance Library in Murphy Hall, a mix of sounds wash down the corridors, woodwind trills swirling with soaring voices and the rumble of drums. Inside, the library is a cove of quiet concentration dotted with glowing laptops, headphone-clad students, and brimming shelves of books and musical scores, which have been expanded in the last year thanks to investments from KU Libraries and the School of Music to increase the diversity of the library's collection.

With leadership from Sara Outhier, Performing Arts Librarian, the library has placed special focus on meeting enthusiastic demand for diverse materials beyond what's historically thought of as the traditional musical canon.

"There's a lot of acknowledgment that the traditional canon is almost exclusively white and male," said Outhier, who has been responding to, "a lot of energy amongst the faculty and students to have a more representative collection."

That energy combines with an initial \$10,000 investment — half from KU Libraries and half from the School of Music — to purchase scores with a focus on African American, Latin American, Asian and Asian American composers, and to honor student and faculty requests for specific materials by artists from underrepresented groups.



"We know this is just scratching the surface," Outhier said. She noted there is a strong desire to include representation of as many communities as possible through a planned annual investment in the effort by KU Libraries.

Margaret Marco, Professor of Oboe and Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging for the School of Music, has appreciated the expansion of the library's collections and its impact on students. Marco teaches Recitals 100, a course for first-year music majors. As part of the course, students research pieces on their instrument written by underrepresented composers and select a piece to perform in class. Outhier supports development of student research skills and access to materials with specialized assistance inside and outside the classroom.

"Students can choose from this large wealth of music that's out there that they wouldn't have thought to look at before," Marco said.

Interacting with new pieces broadens student and faculty points of view and can be inspiring, with some students from underrepresented communities even writing their own pieces to perform in Marco's class.

"Access to more diverse materials allows students more independence to find music that means something to them," Marco said.

With the help of KU Libraries, students are empowered to make discoveries, broaden their experience, and shape their own artistic development and education. ■

# UNLOCKING ACCESS

## Opening doors to equitable education



Ljudmila Bilkić, assistant teaching professor in the department of Slavic, German, and Eurasian Studies, was KU Libraries' 2023 Textbook Hero selection for making learning fun, fresh, culturally relevant, and affordable using Open Educational Resources (OER). Bilkić converted the class materials for four 100- and 200-level courses over the past two years, completing an overhaul of the entire German-language sequence.

"The study of German is more accessible and relevant at KU thanks to her tremendous efforts," said Josh Bolick, Head of the Shulenburg Office of Scholarly Communications & Copyright. "Thanks to previous efforts, most upper division undergraduate German language courses were using

low-cost materials, but the introductory core courses were costly. Dr. Bilkić saw an opportunity to eliminate costs for students and give instructors more control over the content and used the OER grant to flip those courses over a two-year period. It was our honor to assist with this project and recognize her great work."

Textbook Heroes are members of the KU community who've taken extraordinary initiative to increase access to and affordability of required course materials by implementing and advocating for OER and other low- and no-cost course materials. KU Libraries aims to announce a new cohort of Textbook Heroes each year during Open Education Week, which occurs in the spring semester. ■

## BIG DEALS

KU Libraries continued to lead the university's Open Access efforts — scholarly literature that is digital, online, free of charge and free of most copyright and reuse restrictions — renegotiating a handful of existing journal packages and starting new agreements over the past year which support access to materials and broaden the reach of KU-generated research.

Renegotiating a transformative read-and-publish agreement with Elsevier in February was one of the Libraries' most notable achievements. Not only will the KU community keep access to more than 2,000 journals within the world's biggest scientific publishing company, but it will also benefit from the waiver of article processing charges (APC) within eligible journals.

Likewise, in October 2022, KU's deal with PeerJ — an open access, peer-reviewed science journal — extended KU authored research by providing the opportunity to publish up to three articles within 36 months in PeerJ's seven journals at no cost, waiving all APC.

Other deal highlights in 2022-23 include expansion of read access and no-cost-open-publishing with Cambridge University Press — the world's oldest university publisher — and a read-and-publish agreement to a five-journal package with The Company of Biologists.

# A LEGACY OF STORIES



## *Libraries donor expands access to historic documents to promote research and scholarship*

Inspired by her mother sharing cross-generational family stories and the opportunity to highlight a vital asset of KU Libraries, Sandra Gautt established the Alyce Hunley Wayne Visiting Researchers Award. With a major gift to KU Libraries, Gautt created the award to provide support for visiting scholars requiring use of the African American Experience materials in the Kansas Collection at Spencer Research Library.

“The African American Experience materials are the stories of people, the stories of families that reflect the state’s and the nation’s history,” Gautt said. “When researchers come to use the collection, they find interesting things that are pivotal to their work. There’s a real opportunity to make an impact on scholarly academic areas.”

The Wayne Visiting Researchers Award covers travel expenses, enabling selected researchers nationwide to spend essential time at Spencer Library exploring images, personal papers, and government documents that support their projects.

“You have people out there seeking information, but we need to make the connections,” Gautt said.

Through the Wayne Award, those connections are made both in terms

of enabling travel to cross physical distance, and via increased awareness of the collection. Each time the materials make an impact in a scholarly academic area, they become more known to those in the discipline and beyond.

As a KU professor emerita and former vice provost who worked with faculty development, Gautt understands how filling “holes and gaps” in support can energize the scholarly process. An inaugural member of the KU Libraries Board of Advocates, Gautt’s value and support of the libraries is reinforced by her 18 years working in the provost’s office, where she experienced the interconnectedness of the libraries throughout campus and their role in knowledge creation, a perspective that helped shape her approach to the Wayne Award.

“The intent of the award is multi-layered, making the collection more visible to the academic world to influence and enrich scholarship, as well as making the collection more accessible,” Gautt said. “When you understand the value and uniqueness of the collection, you know what it means to be able to highlight it in the venues where it can have the greatest impact. It’s been really rewarding to see how successful it has been.” ■



## **2023 WHAYNE SCHOLAR**

Brandon Byrd, author and Associate Professor of History at Vanderbilt University, was selected as the 2023 Wayne Scholar in support of his research on the history of the African American experience in Kansas, particularly for use in a forthcoming biography of Benjamin “Pap” Singleton, who helped former slaves relocate to Kansas after the Civil War.

# SHOWCASING SCHOLARSHIP

*Libraries' exhibitions and events shine a spotlight on research*



## KEEPING THE BOOKS

“Keeping the Books: The Rubinstein Collection of the Orsetti Family Business Archive,” on display for much of fall 2022 in Kenneth Spencer Research Library, featured samples of business records from the Orsetti family dating primarily from the 16<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Orsetti family was an influential noble family in the city of Lucca in Tuscany, Italy. Their business manuscripts offer a look into what life was like at the time and how business and personal expenses were kept. The items on display highlighted the unique binding style and the ways different books were used for different accounting purposes. The manuscripts feature the Venetian double-entry accounting system.



Chip Taylor presented how his academic work with Monarch Watch aids in connecting KU and the community.



A panel consisting of Mercedes Lucero, Lucas DeCicco, Jomella Watson-Thompson, and Steven Maynard-Moody discussing their publicly-engaged academic work.

## TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

The spring Haricombe Gallery exhibition, “Taking it to the Streets,” looked at the connection between communities and universities through publicly engaged academic work. Faculty take part in a broader range of creative intellectual work in the name of public engagement, collaborating with community partners outside the campus for the purposes of addressing community issues, improving teaching and learning, creating new and relevant knowledge, and developing civic learning opportunities associated with the public relevance of disciplines.

## HISTORIC LEAVENWORTH

In Spring 2023, Kenneth Spencer Research Library hosted the traveling exhibit “Photographic Treasures of Historic Leavenworth, Kansas.” It was developed by the Leavenworth County Historical Society to “reveal a notable segment of American history in surprising detail and reframe the rich legacy of Leavenworth in a new light.”



Reyma McCoy-Hyten, disability activist and contributor to “Disability Visibility” presented at the opening reception.

## EXPANDING THE CANVAS OF DISABILITY

Bringing together contributions from across disciplines, the Haricombe Gallery exhibition, “Expanding the Canvas of Disability,” on Watson Library’s third floor encouraged greater awareness and understanding of disability through research. Diverse audiences were invited to locate “Disability Visibility” and themselves in relation to groundbreaking, often transformative scholarship. The exhibit was in conjunction with the 2022-23 KU Common Book, “Disability Visibility,” edited by Alice Wong.

# FRESH FACES

Highlighting new faculty and staff of KU Libraries



In addition to Dean Carol Smith, more than 30 new faculty and staff members joined KU Libraries over the 2022-23 academic year. A new content series, BiblioBios, shines a light on the people behind the collections, programs, and services in KU Libraries. Here's a look at just a few of the many new faces:



## CECILIA ZHANG

*Chinese Studies Librarian*

Cecilia Zhang is a librarian specializing in Chinese Studies books, databases and journals, supporting faculty members in their teaching and research.



## HEATHER MAC BEAN

*Open Education Librarian*

As Open Education Librarian, Heather provides information and resources regarding open educational resources (OER), open education practices, Creative Commons licensing, and consultations on copyright.



## GWEN GEIGER WOLFE

*Science and Engineering Librarian*

Gwen Geiger Wolfe is KU's Science and Engineering Librarian. Her role is largely to develop the science collections, but also provide instruction and consultation for faculty and students.



## APRIL FRIEDL

*Senior GIS Analyst*

April Friedl brings a wide range of experience in GIS, data management, cartography, programming, and spatial analysis to the services provided in the GIS & Data Lab in Watson Library.



## PHIL CUNNINGHAM

*Kansas Collections Curator*

Phil Cunningham will expand studies related to the African American experience in Kansas, as well as contribute to collection development, preservation, instruction and outreach efforts for the entire Kansas Collection.



## ANDREW MORGAN

*Library Specialist for Licensing and Rights Management*

Andrew Morgan is a specialist for licensing and rights management at KU Libraries, where he focuses on protecting the library and university community as they enter new agreements with service providers.



## MORGAN SMITH

*Anschutz Library Operations Manager*

Morgan Smith manages circulation services and access services staff and student employees at Anschutz. She also coordinates facilities projects to keep the library running smoothly.



## MC MACK

*Watson Night and Weekend Manager*

MC Mack provides services to patrons, manages the front desk, and supervises student workers in Watson Library.



## EVE WOLYNES

*Special Collections Curator*

Eve Wolynes spends her days jumping across centuries as she works with materials as varied as medieval manuscripts, the natural history of plants and animals, and the personal papers of acclaimed science fiction writers.



## AMBER OVSAK

*Undergraduate Engagement Librarian*

Amber Ovsak helps organize programs and opportunities for undergraduate students to interact with and feel comfortable using the libraries. She teaches information literacy classes and can provide one-on-one consultations for students to promote effective use of digital and physical collections.



Scan to read the full series or visit [lib.ku.edu/BiblioBios](https://lib.ku.edu/BiblioBios)

## 2022-23 NEW HIRES

Samantha Bishop-Simmons  
*Humanities Librarian*

Loren Bracciano  
*Business Support Specialist*

Wendy Conover  
*Communications Coordinator*

Asher Dean  
*Campus Mail Assistant*

Erika Earles  
*Manuscripts Processor*

Jaime Groetsema Saifi  
*Special Collections Cataloging Coordinator*

Andrew Hansbrough  
*Audio Visual Preservation Specialist*

Molly James  
*Manuscripts Processor*

John Jones  
*Chinese Language Specialist*

Josie Kitchens  
*Cataloging Library Assistant*

Milton Machuca-Gálvez  
*Librarian for Spanish, Portuguese, Latin America, & Caribbean Studies*

Melissa Mayhew  
*Digitization Coordinator*

Sarah McCall  
*Undergraduate Engagement Librarian*

Kevin McCarty  
*Assistant Director of Communications*

Sydney McFadden  
*Inventory Library Assistant*

Tiffany McIntosh  
*Spencer Administrative Associate*

Christin Monts  
*Events & Donor Relations Coordinator*

Tonia Morgan  
*HR Administrative Associate*

Owen Murphy  
*R&L Administrative Associate*

Ruby Rhodd  
*Serials Cataloging Library Assistant*

# 'HAWKS HUDDLING

*Unique collaboration opportunities continue to grow*



## ROCK CHALK RALLY

KU Libraries' traveling exhibit featured historic images from the University Archives, offering a look back at inspiring moments where KU and Lawrence prevailed against the odds. From the rebuilding of Lawrence after Quantrill's Raid, to the 2022 NCAA Men's Basketball Championship, "Rock Chalk Rally" served to remind us of Jayhawks' fighting spirit and resilience. "Rock Chalk Rally" was showcased at Presidents Club pre-game events during basketball season and traveled to KU Alumni network events across the country.

## PRESIDENTS CLUB TAILGATES

During football season, KU Libraries attended KU Alumni Association's Presidents Club Tailgates to bring KU alumni and friends exhibitions from the University Archives. Items on display included legendary football moments, rivalries, and homecoming celebrations through the years.



## JAYHAWK BOOK CLUB

KU Libraries continued its partnership with the KU Alumni Association to manage the Jayhawk Book Club and its online community on Facebook. Open to all alumni, students, and friends of KU, Libraries staff selects a book each semester. This year's books were "Wrong Place Wrong Time," by Gillian McAllister and "The Light Pirate," by Lily Brooks-Dalton, discussed via online chat and virtual meetings. Find the Jayhawk Book Club private group on Facebook and request to join.



# FUELING CURIOSITY

*Makerspace provides students a centralized, accessible creative outlet*

The walls surrounding KU Libraries' Makerspace on the second floor of Anschutz Library are designed to keep noise in, but in some ways they're also quieting the outside noise of school and life, providing a safe, welcoming place for students to think and create since the space opened last fall.

Early collaborations have been impactful, attracting users and building meaningful relationships across campus with more than 300 3D prints from a variety of academic disciplines serving as quantitative proof of concept. For Tami Albin, KU associate librarian in charge of the Makerspace's day-to-day operations, qualitative affirmations include daily visits from wide-eyed students — some with ideas, others with questions, but all with curious minds.

"We're a low barrier entry point for people interested in learning how to do these things for whatever they might be interested in," Albin said. "For those that don't have financial means, or access because they're not in certain areas of study, we can provide that opportunity for them."

Launched at the beginning of the fall 2022 semester, the Makerspace at Anschutz Library has been building momentum — adding traffic and capacity since its debut. Initially equipped with audio/visual functionality as the former home of the Journalism School's Media



Crossroads Studio, the updated library space has carved a niche in podcasting expertise and 3D printing. Two more 3D printers were added in the spring, along with an assortment of other resources aimed at fostering creativity in a welcoming environment for all skill levels, across all disciplines.

Libraries are places of innovation, critical thinking, and learning, and the Makerspace provides daily opportunities that may not otherwise be accessible to students.

"When one is in a maker space, we're problem-solving, it's just in a different format," Albin said. "We're thinking about things, instead of writing out ideas, we might build out ideas — a

three-dimensional model of something might help us look at issues we can't see in a flat format. Having something in a tactile format that we can work with, works different parts of our brains which allows us to have a more holistic picture of what's going on with the ideas that we're trying to work through."

While the walls of the Makerspace do well to contain the hum of active 3D printers and spirited discussions, the positive outcomes pour out, including 3D-printed parts for a robot, a tiny theater set, fruit fly containment panels, and globally accessible podcasts on environmental geopolitics, among many other highlights. ■



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The background image shows a university campus during autumn. Large trees with yellow and orange leaves are in the foreground and middle ground. A person is walking on a path in the distance. A large, light-colored building with a red roof is visible on the right side. The sky is blue with some clouds.

# KU LIBRARIES

**The University of Kansas**

1425 Jayhawk Boulevard  
Lawrence, KS 66045