



A Newsletter for Employees of the University of Louisville Libraries
Vol. 35, No. 5 ♣ November, 2019

The Owl

"The Owl of Minerva takes flight only as the dusk begins to fall." — Hegel

Meet Courtney Baron

UofL's New Art Library Director

By Melissa Laning

COURTNEY BARON WAS PURSUING AN MA in Classics and advising undergraduate students about research in the field when she realized her real passion was helping others become confident researchers and information creators. At that moment, she decided librarianship was a better career fit for her than the more traditional academic path she had been following. Academic librarianship allowed her to stay engaged with fields of study she loved, including art, anthropology, and geographic information systems (GIS), but with a stronger focus on the dimension where she felt she had the most to offer. Courtney pivoted in a new career direction and never looked back.

Before her graduate studies, Courtney was a first-generation student in Classical Archaeology and Latin at the University of Georgia. Although she was not consciously considering a career in librarianship at that point, she does recall that her professors made lots of assumptions about student research skills that were, in reality, not very familiar to her. Courtney credits the Classics Librarian at UGA as being one of the keys to her success as an undergrad. The experience working with this librarian, and her awareness that not all students enter college with the same educational background, have been instrumental in her teaching philosophy and professional practice ever since.



Courtney received her MLIS degree from the Valdosta State University in May 2015. Valdosta State is also in Georgia, however like most library/information science programs now, the program is delivered entirely online, which allowed her to continue living in Athens, Georgia, which she describes as "awesome." She stayed in Athens even after getting a job at Emory University's Oxford College outside Atlanta, but the intense traffic finally convinced her to move to a new location for the first time since her days as an undergrad. As Head of Library Teaching and Outreach Services at Oxford College, Courtney gained formative professional experience in information literacy, library leadership, and campus relationship building. Kitty McNeill, the Dean at Oxford

College Library, was a strong advocate for professional development and promoted an organizational culture that valued reflective inquiry and collaboration. Despite the advantages of a great library and living in a highly engaged college town, Courtney missed the excitement and cultural opportunities of a larger place.

Our position as Director of the Bridwell Art Library came along at just the right time for Courtney. She was ready for a job with more responsibility and room for creativity, and the city of Louisville was very appealing to her. As you speak with Courtney about her decision to move away from Georgia for the first time, you begin to understand just how important research is to her and how she integrates it into all aspects of her life. She already had a good impression of the area based on two local writers. Ann Bogel is the mastermind behind [Modern Mrs. Darcy](#), a blog about reading that “explores the intersection of the timeless and the timely.” She was also very familiar with the work of [Maria Accardi](#), Coordinator of Instruction and Reference at Indiana University – Southeast, who is a thought leader in the areas of “library instruction theory and practice, feminist pedagogy and other forms of critical pedagogy.” She also knew the traffic was nothing like Atlanta’s.

Courtney moved here with her boyfriend Andy who is from Denver, Colorado. Now that she has settled in here, Courtney’s initial impressions about the vibrant cultural life and the charms of Louisville have been confirmed. She truly loves the walkability and character of the different neighborhoods, and in her current neighborhood

between the Highlands and NuLu, she can walk to just about anything she needs to do except for coming to work. In their spare time, Courtney and Andy are currently exploring other neighborhoods to prepare for moving from their apartment to a house.



Courtney, 3rd from left, during a performance in April 2019 of the Modern Pin-Ups’ “Greatest Show” piece (set to music from *The Greatest Showman*) at the 40 Watt in Athens, GA. Photo courtesy of Parrish McWhorter.

Outside of her professional life, Courtney

has several other passions that are important to her. She has been a dancer with several companies, including the Atlanta Ballet and the [Modern Pin-Ups](#). She is also a huge Disney fan and tries to visit Disney World at least once each year. The fact that she has family in central Florida helps make that possible.

Courtney encourages everyone to stop by the Art Library and visit with her. As soon as you walk through the doors and see the new paint and décor in Courtney’s office and the workroom, you know that exciting changes are underway. She is also looking forward to working closely with faculty and staff throughout the system. The year 2020 promises to be a great one for Courtney and the Art Library!

NEW EMPLOYEES SPOTLIGHT



Mary Beth Williams

UofL position and department: Program Assistant Senior, Archives and Special Collections

Hometown: Louisville, KY

Schools Attended: Bellarmine University (BA), University of Plymouth (study abroad), and University of Louisville (MA)

Hobbies/Activities: Ballet, Knitting, Travel

Favorite Books: Historical fiction in general

Favorite Vacation Spot: New York City and England



Anita Hall



UofL position and department: Assessment & Analytics Librarian, Dean's Office

Hometown: Louisville, KY

Schools Attended: Eastern High, Emory University, University of Pittsburgh

Significant Other/Family Members: Andrew (husband)

Pets: Teddy (dog), Natasha EPCOT (cat)

Unusual previous positions: Before library school I worked in educational nonprofits, marketing, and lots of coffee shops

Zodiac sign: Capricorn

Hobbies/Activities: yoga (I also teach at 502 Power Yoga), hiking, sewing, canning, listening to too many podcasts

Favorite Vacation Spot: National Parks (I'm slowly working through them), Guatemala to visit family

Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself: I took sewing lessons as a child and picked it back up about a year and a half ago – I make most of my own clothes and love to talk about sewing!

SPOTLIGHT continued ...

Cecilia Durbin

Position and department: Student Supervisor in Access and User Services

Schools attended: I received my BA in English from UofL

Pets: I have one dog, named Drogo.

Zodiac sign: Leo

Hobbies/Activities: Playing music, reading poetry and history, writing

Favorite food: Caribbean food or West African food, can't decide



David King, Jr.



UofL position and department: Web & Technology Librarian, Kornhauser Library

Hometown: Louisville, KY

Schools Attended: I started my undergraduate career here at UofL, but moved to Florida before completing my bachelor's degree. I earned my bachelor's and master's degrees in Computing and Information Science from the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida.

Significant Others: Just me and my four-legged furry feline, Pixel. Most of my immediate and extended family also live here, but some also live in North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

Unusual Previous Positions: I was a Starbucks barista in St. Augustine, Florida, and it was there that I really learned to love coffee. I was also a webmaster/videographer for a fishing tournament company in St. Augustine, and I got to go out on very fast deep sea fishing boats and film while they were moving at 55 mph—not an easy task!

Zodiac sign: Aquarius

Hobbies/Activities: Since high school, I have been heavily involved in live theatre in Louisville and Shelbyville. I love theatre so much that I even moved to Florida to start my own theatre company—Theatre Saint Augustine. Unfortunately, due to the Great Recession, we had to shutter its doors. I then took a 10-year break from theatre, but since moving in back in July I've already finished designing and running lights for one community theatre in Henry County, and have two more shows before Christmas—*The Sound of Music* with The Theatre Downstream in Henry County, and *A Christmas Post* at SCCT in Shelbyville. My specialty is lighting design, but I've been on stage a couple of times.

Favorite Books: Way too many to list, but my favorite fiction author is Arthur C. Clarke, and my favorite poets are John Donne, W. B. Yeats, and Charles Bukowski.

Favorite Movies: Comedy: *Airplane!*, Drama: *Lost in Translation*, Action/SciFi: *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Kahn*.

Favorite Food: It depends, but right now it would have to be sushi.

Favorite Vacation Spot: Without a doubt, Walt Disney World.

Staff recognition award

By Carolyn Dowd

Sarah Frankel, ASC's Open Access & Repository Coordinator, was named the winner of the second Libraries Staff Award. Kudos! Rebecca Pattillo, Rachel Howard and Erin Gow all nominated Sarah for the award, making her the sole nominee to garner three nominations. Libraries personnel gathered on November 14 for (belated) pizza and conversation to celebrate her achievement. Here are some of the things folks said about her, and a list of other nominees.



Comments by the nominators

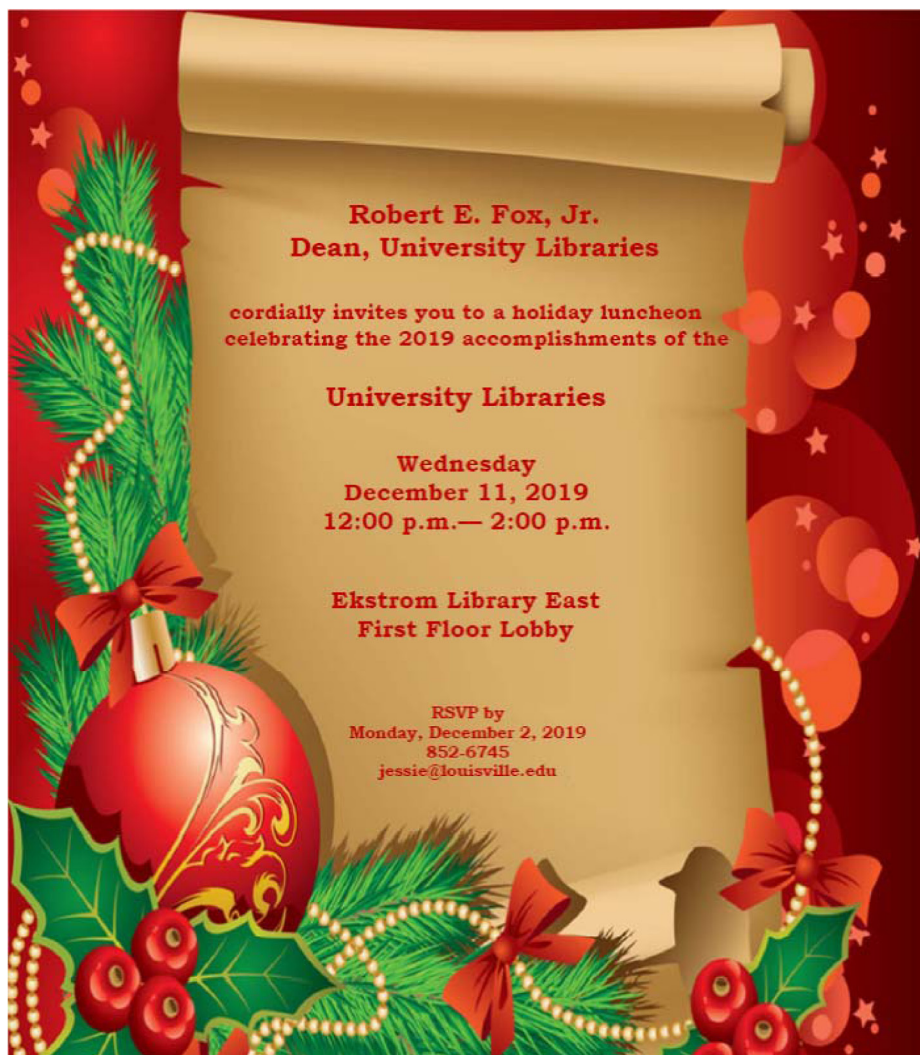
“Sarah takes on so much additional service work beyond what is required of her. Not only has she stepped into a leadership role for the recently formed Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Group, she also serves on several other committees, as well as providing service to the university as a Staff Senator. Sarah never complains about her additional responsibilities and is a strong advocate and voice for staff. Additionally, she works to bridge divides

between faculty and staff in a professional, effective manner. I am constantly blown away by her commitment to the library and UofL. She is always easy to talk to, even about difficult subjects.” Rebecca Pattillo

“Sarah is willing to take on tasks both large/challenging and small/repetitive and see them through to a successful conclusion. She is detail-oriented but also focused on the big picture - the forest AND the trees - and does it all with professionalism and collegiality.” Rachel Howard

“Sarah has been incredibly helpful in assisting me to navigate ThinkIR and Selected Works. She responds to questions quickly, and provides clear and practical answers, which is especially useful since there is often an unavoidable delay due to the fact that I may be functioning as a middle-man conveying a question from non-library faculty or staff. On the occasions where Sarah doesn't have an immediate answer to a question, I know she'll keep digging for more information if it is out there, and I feel confident referring our faculty to her directly if they want detailed assistance or information, since I know she'll assist them professionally.” Erin Gow

Other Nominees were M. Alice Abbott-Moore (2 nominations), Trish Blair, Sahab Bolhari, Felix Garza, Matt Goldberg, Adam Lawrence, Karen Nalley, Jennifer Oberhausen



THANK YOU

Carolyn Dowd
Melissa Laning
Rachel Howard

... for contributing
to this issue of
The Owl

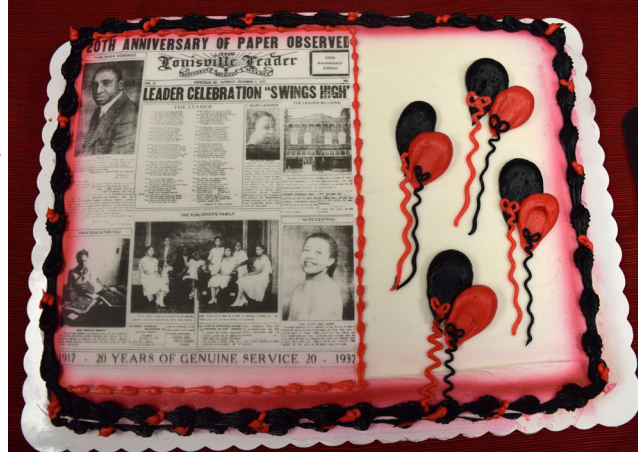
DigiNews

Digital Collections Update

By Rachel Howard, Digital Initiatives Librarian

Sweet end to 7-year effort

If you've been reading *The Owl* during the past seven years, you've probably encountered an article or an update about the *Louisville Leader* transcription project. Preparations for this initiative began in fall 2012, and involved Carrie Daniels, Randy Kuehn, Terri Holtze, and me, along with Public History graduate student Meredith Maple-Gitter. Along with the public launch of 900 extant issues of the historic African American newspaper in Digital Collections in February 2013, we publicized a plea to the community to help make the articles searchable by transcribing them using an Omeka Scripto interface. We then periodically re-publicized that request internally and externally, because it turns out 900 newspapers have around 50,000 articles of unique content requiring transcription!



I am delighted to report that, thanks to an intensive internal effort in 2019 involving Archives and Special Collections (ASC) employees and student workers, along with other dedicated volunteers, we have completed the transcription project, permitting the Office of Libraries Technology to retire the aged Omeka server, which outlived its life expectancy by several years while contributing to the extension of the *Leader's* legacy by many more.



ASC celebrated the milestone with seven special guests – the descendants of I. Willis Cole, the *Leader's* founder and publisher – and a very special cake featuring a *Leader* page, which of course had to be cut around the articles, as has been required by our article transcription workflow. Archivist Tom Owen, who helped microfilm the *Leader* in 1977, thus preserving it and enabling its scanning 35 years later, made remarks, as did Cole's grandchildren Aaron Cole and (in absentia) Nora Cole, read by her niece, Angela. [Photos by Carolyn Dowd.]

With the daily labor of preparing, typing, and processing transcriptions completed, the research potential in this searchable text of this trove of local history has only just begun. See for yourself at <https://digital.library.louisville.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/leader>.

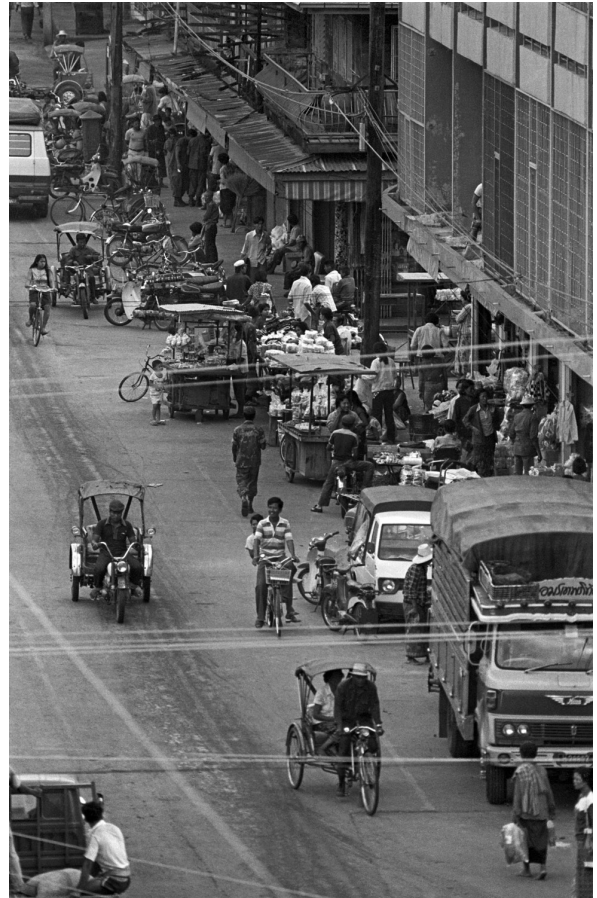
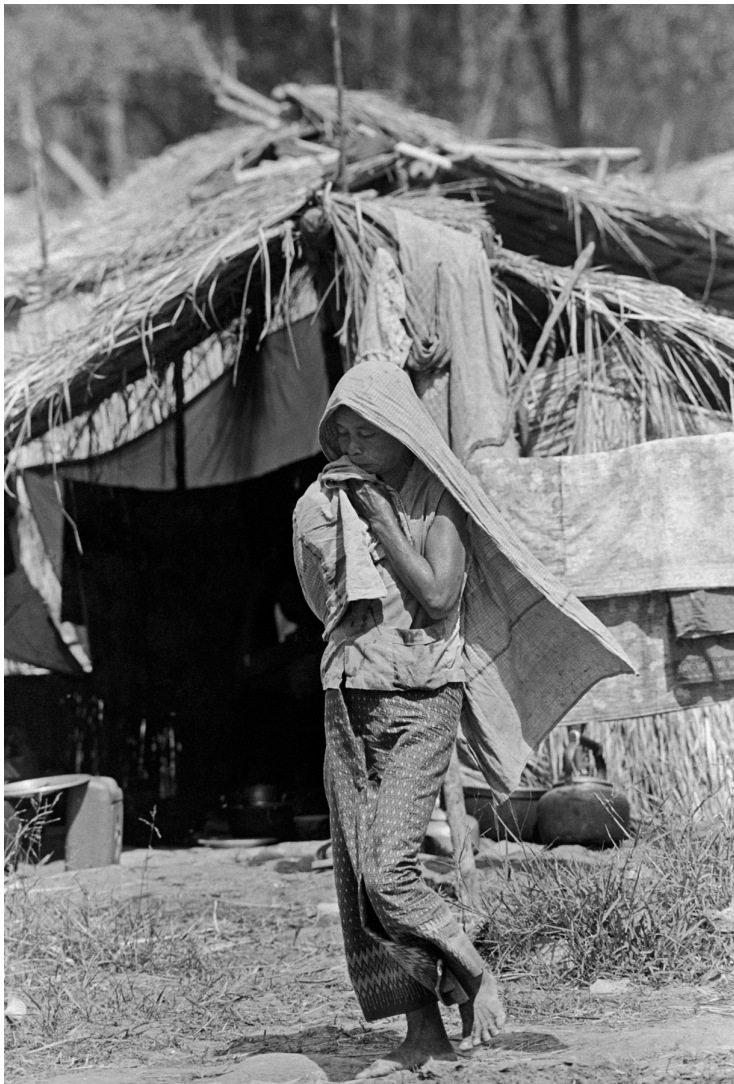
Library Exhibits

Photographic Archives Gallery Lower Level, Ekstrom Library

Living the Cambodian Nightmare Photographs by Jay Mather

An exhibition of Pulitzer Prize-winning photographs made for the Courier-Journal, on the 40th anniversary of the fall of the Khmer Rouge.

October 3 - December 13, 2019



From The Owl Board ...

Beginning in 2020, The Owl will be published quarterly — Winter, Spring, Summer & Fall.