



A Newsletter for Employees of the University of Louisville Libraries

Vol. 38, No. 3 ♣ 2022

# The Owl

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

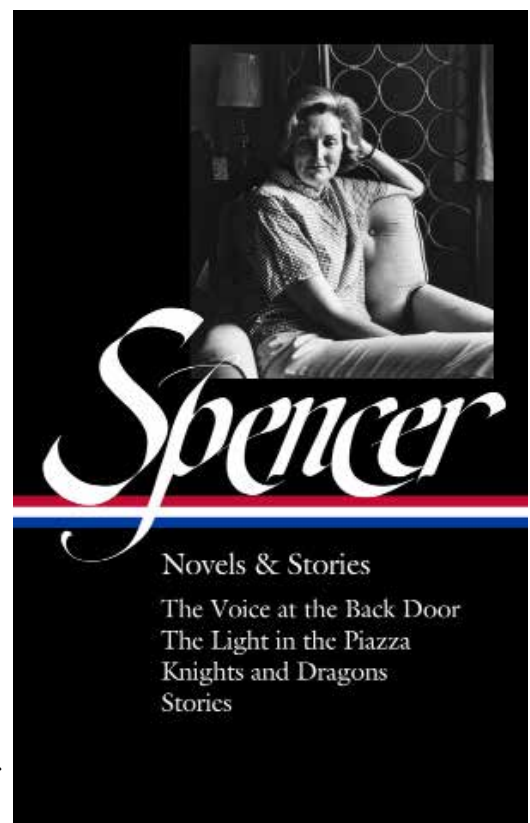
## READERS’ PICKS

*Written and compiled by Christopher Poché, Book Editor, The Owl*

“THE PAST IS NEVER DEAD. IT’S NOT EVEN PAST.” The truth of William Faulkner’s often quoted line is readily apparent in the work of another Southern writer—Elizabeth Spencer’s novel *The Voice at the Back Door*, published in 1956 and recently collected in the Library of America’s collection of Spencer’s work, *Novels and Stories*. The history of racial tensions in the small Mississippi town of Lacy and the personal histories of the main characters of this novel combine to make something as mundane as the election for local sheriff anything but. The election serves to bring these histories to light with explosive results.

Duncan Harper is the town grocer, a former high school football hero, and the choice of the previous sheriff to be his successor, but Duncan has ideas that motivate powerful opposition. First, he wants to crack down on the illegal liquor trade (decades after the repeal of Prohibition, many Mississippi counties maintained strict dry laws); and second, he wants to treat African Americans equally. The first position puts him in conflict with Jimmy Tallant, who owns the roadhouse just outside of town that is the hub of the local liquor trade. Jimmy is a war hero and could be a competitive electoral alternative to Duncan, but he chooses not to run, deferring to the wishes of Duncan’s wife, who happens to be Jimmy’s former high school sweetheart for whom he still carries a torch.

Perhaps more importantly, Jimmy has a personal connection to a violent event that is central to Lacy’s racist past. His father was the leader of a vigilante group that stormed the local courthouse and gunned down twelve African Americans seeking justice and equality for their community. Spencer based this incident on a real occurrence that haunted her own memory as she came to terms with the racial divide in her hometown of Carrollton, Mississippi. In both cases, the fictional and real one, all the townspeople seem to know about the incident but no one talks about it—it’s a bad memory that is best left unmentioned as long as the racial status quo is maintained. But Jimmy is haunted by the memory of it, and he is strangely bonded to Beckwith Dozer, the son of one of the African Americans killed at the courthouse. On the one hand,



he is willing to use Beckwith as the target of a staged lynch mob designed to expose Duncan's liberal views, but on the other he defends him when he becomes the suspect in a murder involving a group of New Orleans bootleggers who are eager to influence the election outcome.

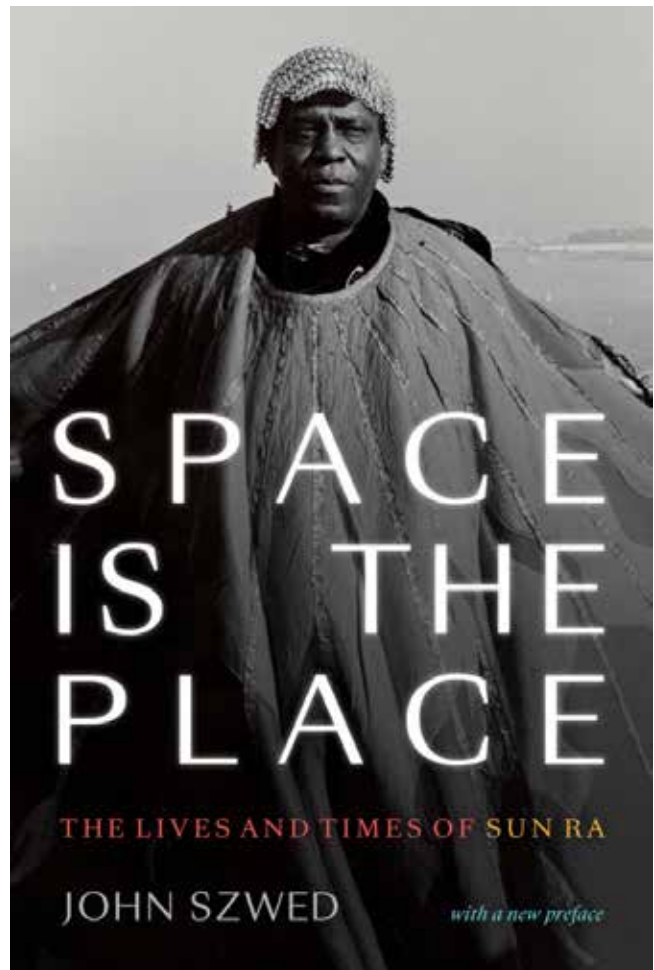
And really, that is barely half of the complicated plot of this novel, which blends the personal and the political into a satisfying whole. It takes some careful reading to take it all in, but once you know who's who and what's what, the novel becomes a compulsive, suspenseful read.

### Scott Campbell, Law Library

*LEO* columnist and UofL Law professor Dan Canon has recently published a searing indictment of the American criminal justice system called ***Pleading Out: How Plea Bargaining Creates a Permanent Criminal Class***. Ostensibly, it is an argument about how plea bargaining has created a system in which many innocent people who are arrested are talked into pleading guilty for crimes they did not commit and how this leads to an overburdened court system, overcrowded prisons, and the permanent loss of civil liberties for millions of Americans. Canon combines plea bargaining with other ills, such as arrest quotas, police militarization, and political pressure on prosecutors, to show how the modern criminal justice system has become a form of class warfare. A heavy topic to be sure, but Canon writes in an accessible style that makes the book easy to read, even while making your hair stand up on your head.

### Heather Fox, Archives & Special Collections

I am currently listening to an excellent biography about Sun Ra called ***Space Is the Place: The Lives and Times of Sun Ra*** by John Szwed. The Sun Ra Arkestra is my favorite band. My husband I saw them in March in Chicago. They are so amazing, full of life, joy, music. Sun Ra died in 1993, and the band is now led by Maestro Marshall Allen, who was born in Louisville and lived at 527 Gray Street, next to the Green Street Baptist Church. He left Louisville at eighteen to join the service, where he played in the band. I got to meet him when they played here in 2014. I asked him about his time here, and he said he remembers very little of it. During the show there had been a malfunction with the sound of one of his instruments. I told him I was sorry about that, and he said, "I'm a Gemini ... if one thing doesn't work, I just move on to the next one." I highly recommend this book for a beautiful introduction to this incredible band.



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The Owl's purpose is to promote communication among the various libraries in the UofL system.

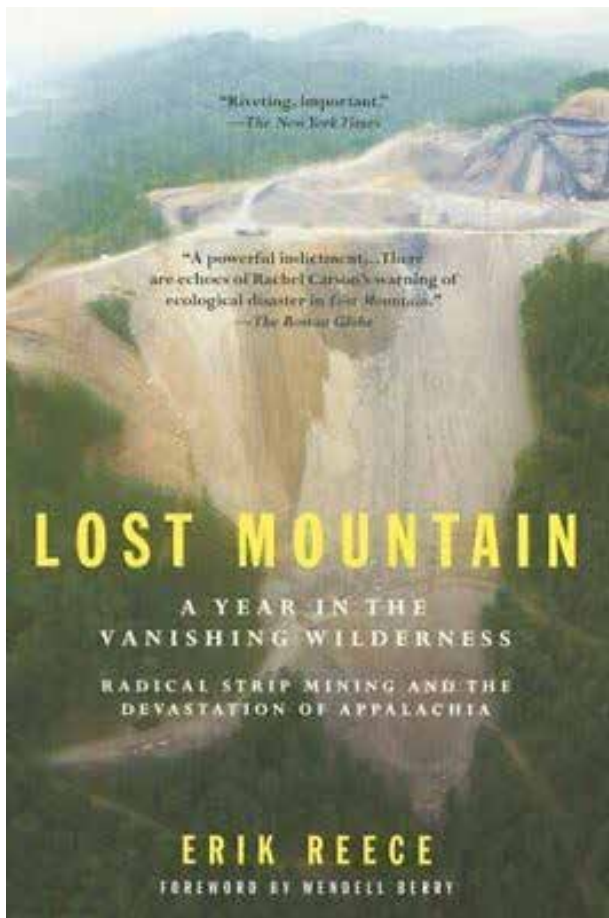
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Opinions expressed in The Owl are not necessarily those of the University Libraries or the University of Louisville.

### Matthew Goldberg, Ekstrom Library

One of the best things about working for a university is the (relatively) quiet summers, which, for me, means way too much time spent reading. I had two primary reading objectives this summer, one to add new material for fall lectures, and one for fun. This semester is the third time I've taught HIST 327 (US and American Military History) and want to make sure that the lectures reflect the increasing diversity of the field and its historiographical outlook. To that end, I've revamped my lectures on colonialism, native military resistance, and the great native confederacies throughout the period. I read several excellent works on the period and here's my recommendations from them: Eric Schultz's *King Philip's War: The History and Legacy of America's Forgotten Conflict*; Michael G. Laramie's *Queen Anne's War: The Second Contest for North America, 1702–1713*; Francis Jennings's classic: *Empire of Fortune: Crowns, Colonies & Tribes in the Seven Years War in America*; Gregory Dowd's *War under Heaven: Pontiac, the Indian Nations, and the British Empire*; Glenn William's *Dunmore's War: The Last Conflict of America's Colonial Era*; and Wiley Sword's *President Washington's Indian War: The Struggle for the Old Northwest 1790-1795*

My "fun" reading was a bit more scattershot but came primarily from two series: the Oxford History of Modern Europe and the Oxford History of England. From the former, Hugh Seton-Watson's *The Russian Empire, 1801-1917* and James J. Sheehan's *German History, 1770–1866* were very good, but the crown jewel was definitely David Vital's *A People Apart: The Jews in Europe, 1789–1939*. I'm not sure I've read a more difficult or important work in the past several years. From the latter series, I particularly enjoyed R. G. Collingwood's *Roman Britain* (vol. I) and Austin Poole's *Domesday Book to Magna Carta, 1087–1216* (vol. III). I'll report back when I've slogged my way through more of the series. Of the sundry other books I finished this summer, I particularly enjoyed James Arnold's *October Triumph: Napoleon's Invasion of Germany, 1806 Jena and Auerstädt*, and A.J.P. Taylor's *The Struggle for Mastery in Europe, 1848-1918*.



### Erin Gow, Law Library

I read *Lost Mountain: A Year in the Vanishing Wilderness—Radical Strip Mining and the Devastation of Appalachia* by Erik Reece at the start of the year and found that I was thinking about it a lot following the recent flooding in Eastern Kentucky, especially in light of the legal cases some residents are now bringing against coal companies there. The second half of the book loses some of the urgency set up in the first half, but I still think it makes for a worthwhile read overall. It would probably be especially interesting for anyone who isn't very familiar with the eastern part of our state.

The most recent book I read was *No One Is Talking About This* by Patricia Lockwood. This novel had a unique structure that took me a little while to adjust to. It was written entirely in short chunks, and there wasn't much in the way of background information. The second half of the story surprised me, though, by compressing a lot of really genuine emotion into the fragmented format, and I loved it. Definitely a book I'd recommend for anyone who isn't sure what they want to read next or just looking for something a bit different.

## Robin Harris, Law Library

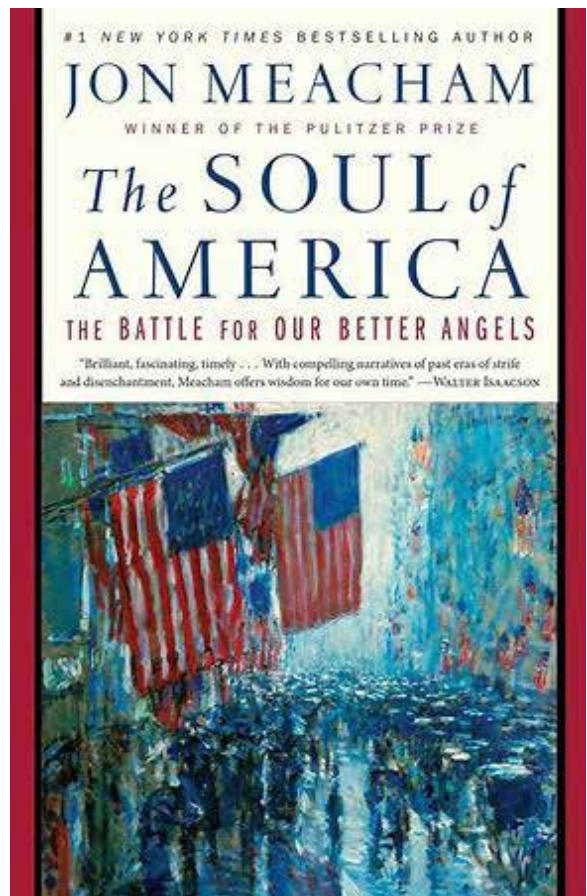
My two favorite recent reads come from Tennessee authors.

### *These Precious Days: Essays* by Ann Patchett

I am always waiting for the latest writing from Nashville's Ann Patchett, whether it is another brilliant novel (her latest is 2019's *The Dutch House*) or her newest essay from *The New Yorker* or *The Atlantic*. Patchett's most recent book, *These Precious Days* (2021) is a collection of her finest essays, and its title piece was indeed the stand-out for me. Whether or not you are familiar with Patchett's writing, I highly recommend this wide-ranging set of essays featuring her sharp insights, both heartbreaking and hilarious. An absolute delight.

### *The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels* by Jon Meacham

Chances are you've seen Jon Meacham as one of the media's "talking heads" over the years, discussing our country, both its past and present. Or, you may know his name as the former editor-in-chief of *Newsweek*. You may even know him as the Canon Historian of the Washington National Cathedral. Meacham used his deep knowledge of history, current events, and religion in the writing of his 2018 book, *The Soul of America*. A reaction to the series of events that led up to and followed the election of Donald Trump in 2016, Meacham reminds us that Trump's ascendancy is nothing new—that racism, sexism, divisiveness, xenophobia, and greed have been with us since the beginning. As the outstanding historian that he is, he cites factual examples from United States history that prove his thesis that we have been here before; as the storyteller and preacher, he weaves the facts into a coherent and fascinating narrative. He ends the book on a cautiously positive note but warns that the survival of our democracy is not a given. (I am awaiting Meacham's next book, *And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle*, available October 18, 2022.)

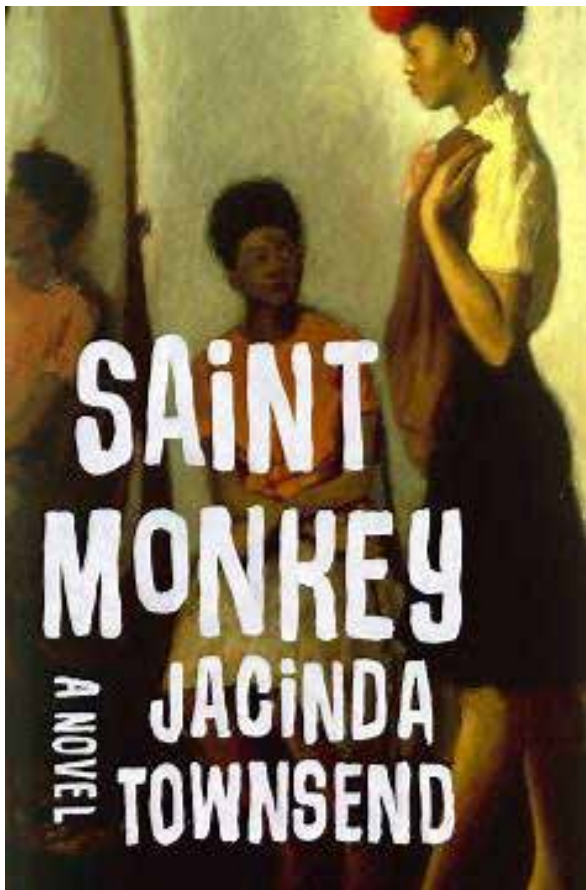


## Melissa Laning, Ekstrom Library

Here are three of my top personal picks from the past few years, and all of them came from the clearance shelf at Half Price Books.

### *red, white, blue* by Leah Carpenter

The blurb on this book says that it is the perfect spy novel for the post-9/11 era, so I was immediately intrigued. What I expected was an action-filled story with drama, heroes and villains, maybe a love story, and a surprise ending. What it turned out to be is a guidebook on spy craft and recruiting intelligence "assets" and keeping them safe. Since the author has also consulted on a movie about the CIA's special activities division, you get the feeling that she has either deep personal connections to intelligence work or has a really good source. All of this is wrapped in a beautifully written story about a woman who is learning that her father had a secret life as a spy. But there is a mystery ending that is so ambiguous that I have given the book to three friends to see what they think happened. So far, they have all disagreed with me, so if you read this book, I really want to talk with you about what you think happens at the end.



***Saint Monkey*** by Jacinda Townsend

Townsend is an African American author from Kentucky, and this is a coming-of-age story about two young women from Eastern Kentucky in the 1950s. The two main characters are neighbors/frenemies, and the book covers their experiences from early adolescence through young adulthood. The writing is beautiful and the way the story is crafted is also really satisfying. The story narration alternates between the two characters, so you hear about events from two different perspectives. You also realize at some point that you might be getting a more accurate understanding about the characters from the other person. There is also an underlying message about being authentic and clear-headed in your life that is subtly woven into the story.

***We Were the Lucky Ones*** by Georgia Hunter

This is a fictionalized but basically true account of a Jewish family living in Poland at the beginning of Hitler's rise to power. The story follows three generations and what happened to them from 1939 through the end of WWII. It is a war story told from the perspective of ordinary people living through it. The author is the granddaughter of one of the

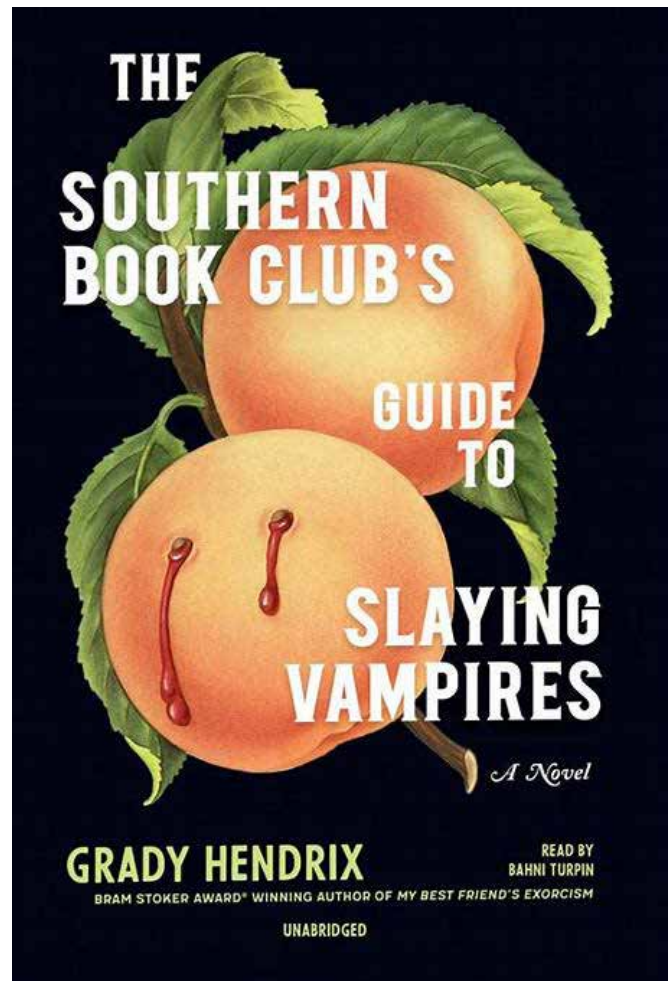
characters.

**Veronica Priest, Kornhauser Library**

Fans of the macabre might enjoy diving into the works of Grady Hendrix. I recently finished two of his books: *The Final Girl Support Group* and *The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires*.

*The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires* focuses on the lives of a group of Southern suburban women and their escapism into their true crime book club. Soon after the formation of the book club, a new member of their community starts raising suspicions of one housewife, Patricia. Throughout this tale of horror and suspense, Hendrix weaves in themes addressing major issues of misogyny, systematic racism, and Southern culture that deeply affect the lives of their women and their community.

*The Final Girl Support Group* was my introduction to the writing of Hendrix. The story follows the lives of a group of women, all survivors of bloody massacres. Hendrix dives into the horror "final girl" trope



by basing his main characters off of “real” final girls from classic slasher films, such as Sidney Prescott from *Scream*. The women come together to form a support group to discuss their trauma and healing that has emerged from surviving such deadly ordeals. However, with the threat of a new killer trying to off the final girls, one must emerge as the ultimate final girl. I thoroughly enjoyed this look into the classic final girl archetype and how Hendrix used this as a way to comment on the ways in which current horror/true crime culture can be problematic.

Both books were a 10/10 for a suspenseful horror read.

### Hannah Pryor, Archives & Special Collections

I just finished the novella *What Moves the Dead* by T. Kingfisher. It’s a retelling of “The Fall of the House of Usher” by Edgar Allen Poe. It was the perfect quick, creepy read as Halloween approaches!

### Jessie Roth, Ekstrom Library

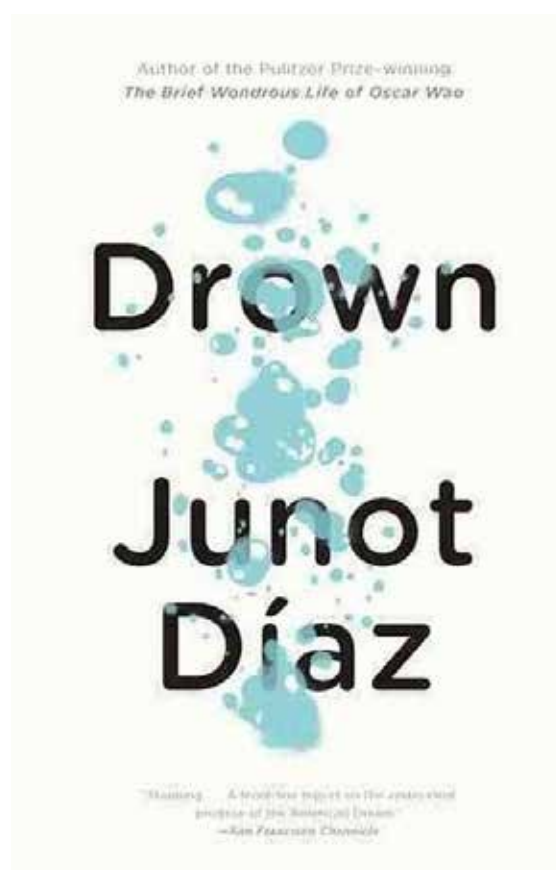
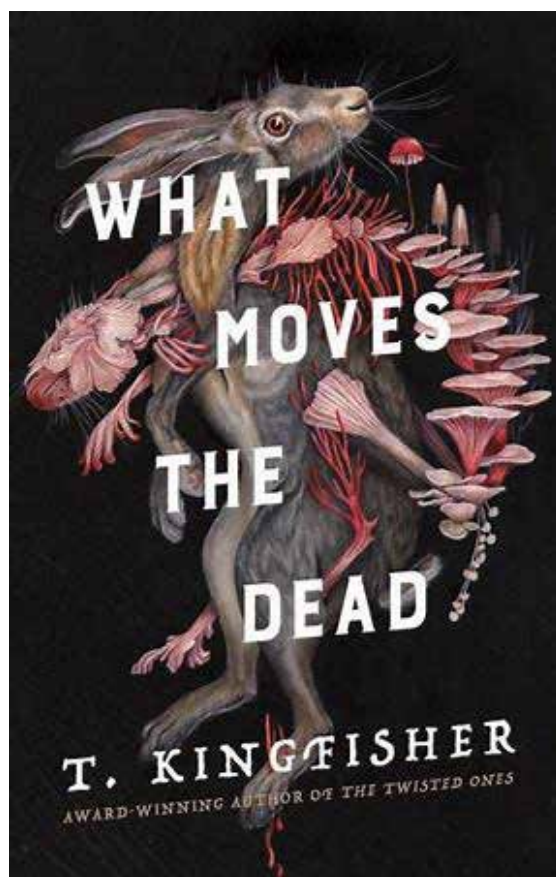
*A Hole in the World: An American Boyhood* by Richard Rhodes

Rhodes, author of *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*, begins the story of his boyhood with his mother’s suicide when he was thirteen months old. After several itinerant years, his father landed Rhodes and his brother Stanley in the house of a ghastly woman who was to become Rhodes’ stepmother. Living a tortured existence, Rhodes and his brother were systematically starved, sent out of the house for twelve-hour stretches, and deprived of any kind of emotional warmth. Eventually they were rescued and sent to live on a farm, where they began to heal.

### Melissa Rothman, Ekstrom Library

*Drown* by Junot Díaz

This is a great read for Hispanic Heritage Month. *Drown* is a collection of stories about a boy from the Dominican Republic that moves to New Jersey. *Content warning*: the prose can be very misogynistic at times—but don’t be thrown off. The author’s purpose is to unveil issues with race and gender in Hispanic and American culture. Díaz is also a great storyteller, so you don’t need to be a boojie literary buff to enjoy.



# Library and Department News

## Archives and Special Collections

*The Barry Bingham, Jr. Courier-Journal Photograph Collection*

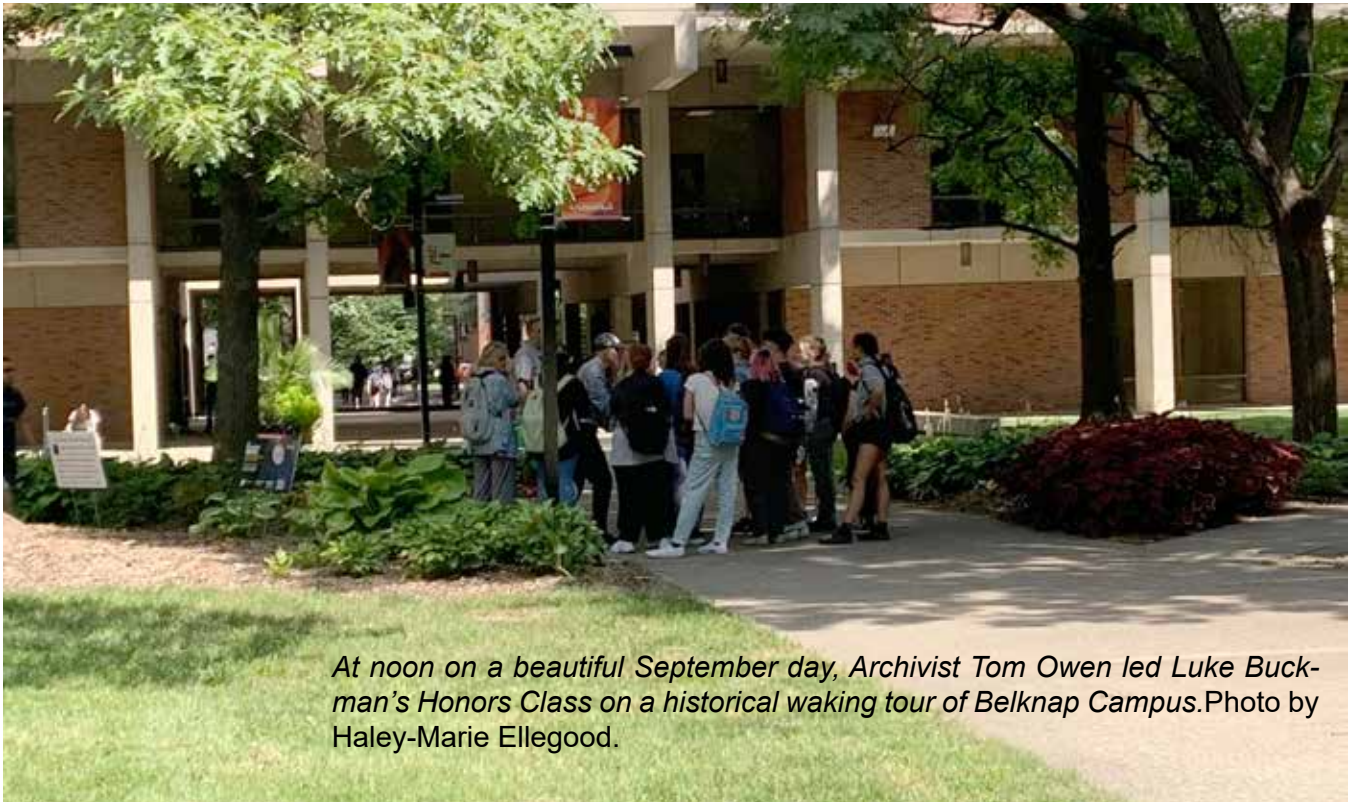


Archives and Special Collections has announced the acquisition of *The Courier-Journal* photographic archive. Consisting of approximately 3 million prints, negatives, and slides shot by photojournalists from the 1930s through the 1990s, this collection doubles the size of the Photographic Archives holdings. ASC staff worked with a moving company over the course of four weeks this past Spring to box up and move the collection from the *CJ* building on Broadway to Ekstrom Library. Work has now begun to demolish the two old darkrooms and kitchen/workroom in the Photo Archives to renovate them into walk-in cold storage to house the negatives for this new collection.

The move and renovation are made possible with monetary donations from Emily and Molly Bingham, whose father Barry Bingham, Jr. was editor and publisher of *The Courier-Journal* and *The Louisville Times* newspapers from 1971-1986. Because of this, the new collection is named the Barry Bingham, Jr. Courier-Journal Photograph Collection. On September 26, 2022 an event was held to announce the collection to the public and make a pitch for additional fund-raising to

hire an archivist to oversee the collection processing and eventually digitization. The massive size and scope of this collection means that it will take years for archivists to organize and it make available to the public. Our goal is to process the entire collection and make it openly available to the public in phases, the first of which will take around two to three years. Any donations made toward this project will help the team reach this goal as quickly as possible.

Selections from the collection can be viewed here: <https://library.louisville.edu/archives/bingham-cj>  
A video introduction about the collection can be viewed here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vAjGm6a\\_m0&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vAjGm6a_m0&feature=youtu.be)



*At noon on a beautiful September day, Archivist Tom Owen led Luke Buckman's Honors Class on a historical waking tour of Belknap Campus. Photo by Haley-Marie Ellegood.*

## **Art Library**

### ***Outstanding!***

Congratulations to Trish Blair for receiving the University Libraries' Outstanding Performance Staff Award! Trish, our Collections Manager, has consistently gone above and beyond in her work, bringing a depth of knowledge and expertise to serve students, faculty, staff, and all Art Library patrons.



*From Left to Right: University Libraries' Dean Robert Fox, Kathy Moore, Chris Poche, and Trish Blair. Photo by Carolyn Dowd.*





Kathy Moore.  
Photo by Carolyn Dowd.

### *Farewell, Kathy. . .*

On September 20, the University Libraries celebrated Kathy Moore’s retirement and forty-five years of service at Bridwell Art Library. The party was well-attended, and guests enjoyed the lovely decorations and a spread fitting of a tea party. The Dean’s Office generously funded a contribution to Change Today, Change Tomorrow in Kathy’s honor. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend!



Trish Blair made delicious treats for the party — a chocolate cake and citrus butterfly cakes. Photo by Amy Purcell

Stop by Bridwell Art Library to fill out a catalog card with your well wishes. These cards will be bound together as a keepsake. Kathy’s final day at the University of Louisville is October 14.

### *Library Updates*

We have several exciting updates to the Art Library space. The carrel chairs (below left) were upgraded to seafoam fabric chairs on chrome wheels to match the chairs in our conference room!



The current periodicals (above middle) were shifted so they are visible from the Schneider Hall lobby. A new book display to feature our monthly staff picks and other highlighted materials. We have a new flatbed scanner at the Art Library! It’s an Epson Expression 12000XL, especially good for photographers and graphic designers! New teal book carts (above right) match our accent wall. (Art Library photos by Kathy Moore.)

## **Ekstrom Library**

### **OFFICE OF LIBRARIES TECHNOLOGY**

#### *Using the Green Room’s Teleconferencing Device*

As mentioned in the last briefings, the Green Room has been equipped with hybrid-meeting ready devices. The room’s capacity is about 12 people. The user can come with or without any computer to use the teleconferencing functions.

The Green Room, as a sub-room for Chao Auditorium, is not reservable separately from the public room-reservation system. It is reserved directly via the Dean’s Office.

If you want to use this space, contact the Dean’s Office at 502-852-6745 to make a reservation. If you are a first-time user, or plan to use your own laptop, please reserve some time for equip-

ment use orientation. Follow the Green Room Kramer Quick Start Guide to use the room.

### *Using the Portable Teleconference device, OWL LABS*

There is a portable teleconferencing device, OWL LABS, available for loaning. The equipment is managed by OLT.

According to the device technical specification document. The device with a 360-degree view camera can be used in a room with video pickup radius of 10 feet and audio pickup radius of 18 feet. It is compatible with popular virtual conference software such as Zoom, GoToMeeting, Webex and Microsoft Teams.



Please submit a request on <https://helpdesk.library.louisville.edu> or email to [libtech@louisville.edu](mailto:libtech@louisville.edu).

If you are a first-time user, please reserve some time for equipment use orientation. You can check out the device from OLT ahead of time and then check in the device to OLT when you are finished.

## **OFFICE OF THE DEAN**

### *New Hires*

We filled another staff position! **Angela Walter** accepted our new Business Center Assistant Sr. position, which now handles HR and payroll activities and also serves as a back-up for financial responsibilities when necessary. Angela has many years of HR experience and came to us from the Human Resources department here at UofL. Her first day was Friday, July 15.

**Colleen Eubank** accepted the Records and Repository Specialist position in ASC, effective September 23. In her new role, she will work with Sarah Frankel and Hannah Pryor managing routine processes in the lifecycle of physical and digital university records.

## **TECHNICAL SERVICES**

### *Congratulations, Colleen!*

Congratulations are in order for long time Technical Services Library Assistant Colleen Eubank. Colleen accepted the Records and Repository Specialist position in ASC (Archives and Special Collections) and started that position on September 23. Colleen had worked in Technical Services since 2001, where she started as a mending student assistant under David Sauter. Not only did she work for David, she also worked with Delinda Buie and Bill Carner in Photo Archives. When David left in 2004, she applied for and obtained the Binding and Serials Acquisitions assistant position. During her time in this position, she supervised one to four student assistants at any given time. Over the years, Colleen has helped with linking art journals, as well as the transfer of the Kersey library materials to Ekstrom Library. In addition to binding, Colleen has also contributed considerably to both the transfer project and to processing for compact storage.

Colleen, while sad to leave Technical Services, is excited about her new position and the opportunities it will bring, including collaborations with others. We will miss her and wish her all the best!

# NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



## SONNY LONG

**Preferred nickname:** Sonny

**UofL position and department:** Senior Technology Specialist, Office of Library Technologies

**Hometown:** Louisville, Kentucky, born and raised!

**Schools Attended:** Lindsey Wilson College

**Significant Other/Family Members:** wife Deonna and daughter Deondra

**Hobbies/Activities:** Bowling, golf, and playing with my daughter

**Unusual previous positions:** Former material handler at Sypris Technologies, it lasted less than a year. It was hard manual labor and not for me!

**Favorite Books:** The Bible

**Favorite Movies:** *The Five Heartbeats*

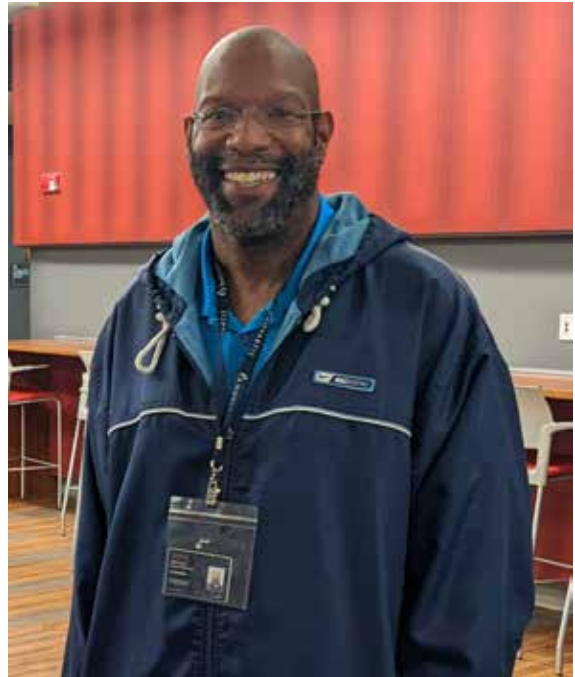
**Favorite Food/recipe/recommended restaurant:** Favorite food is Steak, Favorite Restaurant is Texas Roadhouse

**Favorite Vacation Spot:** Gatlinburg, Tennessee

**Favorite Quote:** If it's worth doing, it's worth doing right!

**Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself:**

as a 2-time kidney transplant recipient, I am part of a team called Team Kentucky, for anyone who has received an organ or bone marrow transplant. We go to the Transplant Games of America every other year in a different city, for people who have received transplants and participate in Olympic-style games. Events include bowling, basketball, track & field, and trivia.



In July 2022, our colleague, friend, and fellow Owl Board member, Bill Carner, passed away, surrounded by friends and family. Known as the Photo Wrangler, Bill exemplified photographic and curatorial skill, artistic flair, and infectious good humor during his 34-year career at UofL. At the link below you will find the feature article "[Bill's 'Swan Song' Show](#)" from the November 2012 issue of *The Owl*, published shortly before Bill retired.

# THANK YOU

Alice Abbott-Moore  
Carolyn Dowd  
Haley-Marie Ellegood  
Betty Joyce Graves  
Rachel Hodge  
Weiling Liu  
Kathy Moore  
Tom Owen  
Chris Poché  
Elizabeth Reilly  
Courtney Stine

... for contributing to this issue of *The Owl*

Belknap Academic Building, UofL, 2018. By Tom Fougousse.

# Library Exhibits



## GRAPHIC PIONEER

The Early Poster Designs of Julius Friedman  
1965-1980

Julius Friedman Gallery, Photographic Archives  
Lower Level, East, Ekstrom Library  
Through December 2022



I want to express thanks and gratitude for the great troubleshooting work by Andy Clark with the technical from Dematic last week, Prophet Cooper, in discovering the problem with Crane #1 and coming up with a solution! Crane #1 is back in service and now the materials of Aisle 1 are accessible again! Both Andy and Prophet deserve bonuses and raises!

Also, I would like to express thanks to Access & User Services for their patience and extra work dealing with this issue during the past nine months.

I also want to express gratitude to our patrons, both external and internal (library employees), for their patience and grace during this very difficult time.

--Alice Abbott-Moore, RRS Supervisor