



A Newsletter for Employees of the University of Louisville Libraries

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# The Owl

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

## "AT THE CROSSROADS"

### A History of Black Health in Louisville

by Cassidy Meurer  
Archives & Special Collections

At The Crossroads, a new exhibition in Archives & Special Collections, details the establishment of health care facilities by and for Black Louisvillians in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries during a time in the United States when Black people were prohibited from seeking medical care or training from most institutions because of harsh Jim Crow era racial segregation laws. At the turn of the century, only Louisville General Hospital would admit impoverished Black patients into a segregated wing, leaving a large portion of Louisville's Black residents without hospital care. Additionally, there was no option for Black patients to be treated by members of their own community; it is safe to assume the care they received from white doctors could have been of a lesser quality due to rampant racism.

Black physicians in Louisville took matters into their own hands, opening medical colleges, training programs, hospitals, community health centers, and private practices to provide care for their community. Dr. E.D. Whedbee, Dr. W.T. Merchant, and Dr. R.D. Scott began the Red Cross Sanitarium in a private residence at 6<sup>th</sup> and Walnut Street in 1896. After the great demand for their services became evident, they moved to a larger building on Shelby Street and changed the name to the Red Cross Hospital. A fixture in the community, the Red Cross Hospital serviced thousands of patients and contributed to the education of many physicians, surgeons, and nurses. It closed its doors in 1975, after a couple of decades attempting to compete with newer, well-funded hospitals in the face of medical desegregation.



Red Cross Hospital, Louisville, Kentucky, August 1930. Caufield and Shook Collection. CS 033741

The founding physicians of the Red Cross Hospital belonged to a medical society comprised of only Black doctors practicing in Louisville, the Falls City Medical Association, later Society. The Louisville National Medical College, open from 1888 to 1912 with 175 graduated students, created a robust community of Black medical professionals in the city, allowing for



Falls City Medical Association picture roster from the 52nd National Medical Association meeting program, Louisville, Kentucky, 1946. Walls Family Papers.

a medical society to form. The Falls City Medical Society was instrumental in the formative years of the Red Cross Hospital and continued to break down barriers and contribute to the betterment of the Black medical community in Louisville. Dr. John Walls was an active member of the Society, helping to establish "well-baby clinics" that statistically reduced infant mortality. The Falls City Medical Society also aided the first Black students and instructors' entrance to the University of Louisville Medical School and the integration of hospital staffs across the city in the 1950s and 60s.

Small neighborhood health clinics were crucial to equalizing access to medical treatment in Black communities in Louisville. The Beecher Terrace apartments opened in 1939 as federally subsidized public housing and featured a health clinic in their administrative building, Baxter Community Center. The health clinic, called the Central Louisville Health Center, was the only of its kind during this time, providing dental services, eye exams, x-rays, first aid and maternity classes, and general health care for approximately 65,000 Black citizens. The Central Louisville Health Center offered accessible care to those the Red Cross Hospital could not serve due to financial obstacles, lack of transportation, or overcrowding.



Waiting room and examination room, Central Louisville Health Center, Beecher Terrace, 1943. Royal Photo Company Collection. R 07660\_00



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

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At the Crossroads: A History of Black Health consists of photographs, oral histories, and original materials from Archives & Special Collections and focuses on the Red Cross Hospital, highlights other Black medical institutions established in Louisville, and acknowledges the efforts made by those working in the field prior to desegregation.

Here are the links to the oral histories featured in the exhibit. They are all transcribed and available to listen online:

[Dr. Jesse B. Bell](#)

[Dr. Maurice Rabb](#)

[Waverly Johnson](#)

Visit the exhibit on the lower level of Ekstrom Library, in the exhibit case outside of Archives & Special Collections, through December 2022.



## **Outstanding Performance Staff Award and Ice Cream Social** brought to you by the Communications Team and Staff Development Committee



Andy Huff, Systems Programmer IV in OLT, won the Outstanding Staff Performance Award for Spring 2022. He was nominated by Weiling Liu. In her nomination, Weiling wrote, "I feel fortunate that we have Andy in OLT and appreciate his excellent work and contributions. He is an asset to the Libraries." Chris Poché presented the award at the ice cream social in Ekstrom Library on June 8.

(left to right) Dean Bob Fox, Andy Huff and Chris Poché, Staff Development Committee chair.



And we all enjoyed ice cream! 😊



# Library and Department News

## Archives & Special Collections

*WHAS news story*

David Williams, donor of the LGBTQ Williams Nichols collection, will be featured along with Delinda Buie, on WHAS, Tuesday, June 21 at 6:00 pm.

## Art Library

*Upgrades Continue at Art Library*

Come visit the Art Library to see our newest upgrades! We got new rolling Carrel chairs (to replace the three different kinds we used to have), which match our Conference Room chairs; and a fantastic Book Display on casters, which is already being used for our Pride display.



## Ekstrom Library

**Office of Library Technology**

*Upgrades and Changes Continue*

PC/Laptop Replacement project was completed.

EZproxy Server Authentication Upgrade is proceeding, with ITS and OCLC, on migrating the authentication from Shibboleth to the new authentication system. Watch for the announcement about the downtime for system testing given that there's no test system available.

Changes to Public PCs and W102 in Ekstrom Library include moving 24 PCs in the West side Learning Commons to replace the PCs in W102. Along with the eight PCs removed from Music Library, the 32 PCs in W102 have been replaced and will be upgraded with new hard drives and reimaged.

The Green Room in Ekstrom Library The Green Room is now equipped with hybrid-meeting ready devices.

## Office of the Dean

*Personnel News – resignation*

Lauren Bickel has announced her resignation effective Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. Lauren joined the Archives & Special Collections (ASC) right out of graduate school in 2020. During her time here she worked on many projects in ASC and had a role in the Libraries Business Center. Lauren's new job will be as Project Archivist with the College of Charleston in South Carolina. She will be processing the Jewish Heritage Collection there. We thank Lauren for her contributions to the University Libraries and congratulate her on the new position in Charleston.



## Technical Services

### *Materials Transfer Update*

While there are several ongoing projects in the Technical Services area, there is one we are particularly focused on: the transfer of materials from the 3 floor to either the RRS or HDS (Compact). Since crane #1 is not working, no books in the RRS awaiting transfer can be pulled. However, we continue to transfer those books that were temporarily placed on shelves in HDS. There are currently 131 shelves that contain these loose books. HDS has 3 aisles. Aisle 1 is being used by Music, Art, Archives and Special Collections, as well as microforms, and is presently considered filled. Thus, we are in the process of transferring materials to aisle #2 and aisle #3. There are currently **116,349** volumes stored in HDS and showing the HDS location in WMS.

These numbers have been compiled by Technical Services librarian Megan Miller, and show our progress in aisles 2 and 3:

Aisle #2 is 48% full (306 filled, 335 empty, 641 total capacity)

Aisle #3 is 35% full (182 filled, 339 empty, 521 total capacity)

HDS total capacity (Aisle 2 + 3 combined) 42% full

Special thanks to Tyler Goldberg and Megan Miller for providing the data for this update.

## Kornhauser Library

### *First Floor Closed for Renovations*

The first floor of the Kornhauser Library has been shut down for renovations until the end of the year. In order to install handicapped access to the auditorium stage, the construction will take part of the technical services area. Tiffney Gipson, Anthony Iles, David King, Betsy Osoffsky and Angela Ren will be working remotely for the duration.

### *UofL Faculty/Staff Golf Outing*

Kornhauser golfers Anthony Iles and James Adler played in the UofL Faculty/ Staff Golf Outing sponsored by the UofL Recreation Department on June 10. They had a fantastic time at Nevel Meade Golf Course in Prospect, with 118 other duffers. James and Anthony's team finished one over par, which put them in the middle of the pack score-wise, but tops on our card!

## Law Library

The Law Library's Reading Room is featuring a true crime display. Folks can visit to pick up a local history book about crimes in Louisville and Kentucky for some summer reading! More info and a selection of titles available at: <https://library.louisville.edu/law/blog/home/Summer-Reading-True-Crime>.



# Library Exhibits

## Sturtevant Collection of Civil Rights and African American Literature

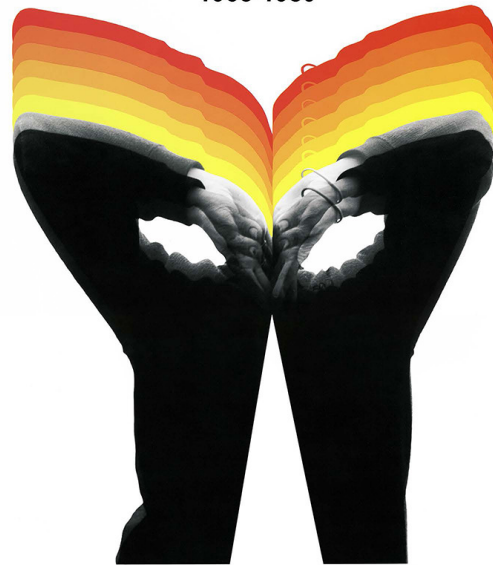


Archives and Special Collections' Kain Gallery will feature volumes from the Elwood Sturtevant Collection of Civil Rights and African American Literature. The Rev. Sturtevant, a retired Unitarian Universalist minister, has been active in Civil Rights for decades.

**Kain Gallery, Rare Books  
Lower Level, East, Ekstrom Library  
Through December 2022**

## GRAPHIC PIONEER

The Early Poster Designs of Julius Friedman, 1965-1980



The Center for Photographic Studies is entering its fourth year. In a short time we have evolved a program which is one of the most vital, stimulating, and productive in this country. We provide a significantly different educational experience, offering our students an intense period of study to allow them to grow unfettered by the often stifling formality of academics. We accept students of all levels of competence. Our only entrance requirement is a commitment to serious study. We give no grade or degree as a matter of basic educational philosophy. We believe in the value of education

that celebrates risk-taking and encourages the individual to reach out to himself. We offer space, the physical resources, and the energy and knowledge to help people in this venture. A Ralph Eugene Weidman Memorial Scholarship is available to a student of exceptional ability and need. We accept students in either September or January. For applications and more information write: Carol J. Freeman, Director, Center for Photographic Studies, 611 West Main Street, Louisville, Kentucky 40202, 502/583-9170

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

## Thank You

Delinda Buie  
Carolyn Dowd  
Erin Gow  
Joyce Graves  
Weiling Liu



Mary K Marlatt  
Cassidy Meurer  
Kathy Moore  
Chris Poché

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