



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." — Hagel*

## *The Courier-Journal* Photographers: An Oral History Project

By Heather Fox

Director, Oral History Center / Manuscript Archivist

Archives & Special Collection

As director of the Oral History Center within Archives & Special Collections, I manage over 2000 interviews that document the local community. In September of 2022, The University of Louisville Archives & Special Collections received the donation of *The Courier-Journal* historic photograph archive. Owned by the Bingham family from 1913-1986, photojournalism flourished at *The Courier-Journal*, especially while under the direction of Barry Bingham, Jr. who invested heavily in the photography division. Bingham understood the significance of powerful journalistic storytelling and supported the expert photographers he hired to do great work. Under Bingham's direction, the paper was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography in 1976 for a comprehensive pictorial report on busing in Louisville's schools. In 1980, photographer Jay Mather and reporter Joel Brinkley won the [Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting](#) for their work at the Thailand-Cambodia border documenting the massive exodus of Cambodian refugees fleeing the wrath of the Khmer Rouge regime.

We have an existing collection of [interviews](#) recorded in 1981 with *The Courier-Journal* employees that includes editors, advertising managers, reporters, printers, the general counsel, and one of the librarians. For my sabbatical, I developed *The Courier-Journal* photo department oral history project to complement this collection as well as to document what it was like to work in the photographic department. I spent the fall semester of 2023 conducting research, developing questions, coordinating meetings and conducting interviews with photographers, photo editors and the director of photography who presided over the department when they won both Pulitzer Prizes.



Pam Spaulding on the phone in The Courier-Journal photography department, November 1974. photographer unknown

One of the photographers I interviewed, Pam Spaulding, was revered by everyone I talked to. Spaulding is a quiet, hard-working, supremely talented photographer who produced a book entitled [An American Family](#) that comprises images of one family she photographed for forty years. We stayed in touch after her interview and she gave me several boxes of prints and negatives she gathered over the years of the *CJ* photo staff behind the scenes in their space on the sixth floor of *The Courier-Journal* building at Sixth and Broadway. Pam and I have stayed in touch



and she has been a trusted advisor as I continue to interview people post-sabbatical. She suggested an interview trip to Virginia where I would find four “good interviews” in close proximity to one another. She vouched for me and connected me to them. In May I traveled to Richmond and Arlington and conducted four interviews in four days, two with photo editors Cheryl Magazine and Dennis Dimick, one with James Wallace, photographer, photo editor and director of photography, and one with Jay Mather, one of the Pulitzer Prize-winning photographers mentioned above.

One thing I learned from my first interviewee, Cheryl Magazine, was that Secretariat is from Richmond! Cheryl and I met up for lunch before our interview and then posed in front of the giant statue of Secretariat across the street from the restaurant. [photo left] We then retired to her home in an “agri-community” for the interview which covered her time at the *CJ* as a photo editor 1977 - 1980. Magazine pitched the story that won the Pulitzer Prize in 1980 and provided her perspective on


how the project happened. I got another perspective on the project from the last interviewee Jay Mather who shot the photographs.

I also interviewed Mr. James Wallace, Navy veteran, UofL alum (class of 1990, History, Photography, Computer Science) and current director of photography at the *Richmond Times Dispatch*. Mr. Wallace worked at the *CJ* for twenty years as first a photographer, a photo editor and director of photography and provided insights into the transition from analog to digital photography. He became director of photography on September 11, 2001 and recounts that experience. [photo right: Fox and Wallace]



Photo editor Dennis Dimick only worked at the newspaper for two years and then never worked for a newspaper again after leaving *The Courier-Journal* for *National Geographic*. Mr. Dimick discussed the ways in which he transformed the day-to-day photo-editing process by convincing the managing director of the newspaper to work more closely with the photo desk on selecting and laying out pages.

Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Jay Mather was the final stop on my interviewing trip and as you can see in the photo his assistant, Dara, joined us for the interview. Mather provided a detailed

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*Mather and Dara*

account of his time covering Louisville doctor Ken Rasmussen working to provide healthcare to people on the Thai-Cambodia border who had been displaced by the Khmer Rouge's assault on the Cambodian population. Mather had never read the Pulitzer Prize nomination letter which I had requested from the Columbia University archives during my research and I shared it with him upon my return to Louisville.

Oral history projects are multi-faceted and researching interviewees, developing productive questions and conducting interviews are the first steps in a laborious process to provide meaningful access to the information gathered. Once recorded, the interviews must be transcribed which takes roughly five hours per one hour of recorded time by a human transcriber. The Oral History Center has a subscription to an AI transcription service that generates the first very rough draft of the transcript which then must be reviewed by a human person for spelling and punctuation. I have found that a second review is often needed before sending it to the interviewee for review. Then the interviewee must take the time to review and return the transcript before it

becomes the official version. Once the transcript is finalized, we create a summary, make a catalog record, upload the transcript to the Oral History Metadata Synchronizer, synchronize the transcript and audio and finally we can post the interview online. Cassidy Meurer posts interview clips to the Archives & Special Collections social media accounts @uofl\_archives if you want to get a sneak peek of the collection. Once all the transcripts are finalized I will create a collection on the Oral History Center webpage and provide free streaming online access to all of the interviews.

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Here are some photos taken by the photographers mentioned in Heather's feature:



*Above: After addressing a crowd in the newsroom, Barry Bingham Jr., editor and publisher of The Courier-Journal and The Louisville Times, passed the microphone to Gannett Chairman Al Neuharth. Photo by Pam Spaulding on May 19, 1986.*



*Right: Heavy rains forced the Male High School girls' softball team to hold their annual team picnic under the shelter house at Hogan's Fountain in Cherokee Park. Photo by Jay Mather on May 19, 1981.*

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# Library and Department News

## Archives & Special Collections

*'Tom Talks' for the 100th anniversary of the Kentucky Derby*

Tom Owen was interviewed by [Spectrum news](#) and gave some historical context to the setting for the first Derby. He also did a [WHAS interview](#), and spoke about the Twin Spires.

*Testing the new cold storage*

Before moving *Courier-Journal* negatives into the new cold storage, the system needed to be tested. To achieve this, ASC filled the space to about 2/3 to 3/4 capacity. For two mornings in June, ASC staff moved boxes from the University Archives stacks to the cold storage.

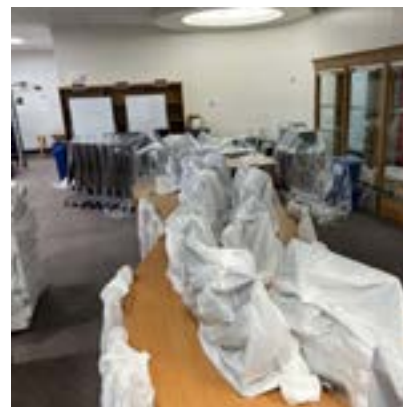
Right: Elizabeth Reilly, Curator Photo Archives displays the full shelves. Photo by Amy Purcell



## Art Library

*Art Staff Settles in at Ekstrom and Archives & Special Collections*

The Art Library has officially closed for the summer due to the HVAC replacement in Schneider Hall. Staff have settled into temporary workspaces at Ekstrom, but the collections will be unavailable for the duration of the project. Check out our [Summer 2024 Closure](#) guide with information on collections, online resources, printing & scanning, and research help. We expect to re-open the Art Library after August 21. In the meantime, we can be reached at [artlib@louisville.edu](mailto:artlib@louisville.edu) or 502-852-6741 for help.



Right: "The Pile" from our renovation preparations! Photo by Justin Davis

## Ekstrom Library

### Research Assistance and Instruction

*Strategic Research Initiatives Librarian*

Courtney Shareef has been appointed to a new tenure-track position as Strategic Research Initiatives Librarian in RAI. In this role, she will serve as liaison to the College of Education and Human Development and contribute to the development of new and enhanced services in RAI.

*Student Engagement Coordinator*

Melissa Rothman has been appointed as Ekstrom Library's new Student Engagement Coordinator. She will be planning and contributing to various events and programs aimed at increasing student engagement with the library and advancing student success in general.

*Grant Received from Purdue*

Alex Howard and Amber Willenborg have received a grant award from Purdue University's Institute for Information Literacy for their ongoing research project, "Context and Connections: Applying the Critical Cultural Literacy Model to Community-Based Learning." This is an exciting project with implications for how librarians and teaching faculty can incorporate information literacy into engaged learning experiences.

### *Library Instruction Together Conference Presentation*

Kristina Bloch gave a presentation at the Library Instruction Together Conference in Nashville, Tennessee: "Skill Scaffolding from K-12 to Higher Ed: How Can We Better Equip Our Students." The presentation addressed the importance of collaboration across all educational levels to advance student learning and enhance library programming. Recordings from this year's virtual conference are now available on the [LIT YouTube channel!](#)



### *Kentucky Libraries Publishes Article on OER*

Lidiya Grote contributed to a recent article in *Kentucky Libraries* profiling open educational resource and affordable learning initiatives at institutions across the state. Her work has included collaborative efforts with the Office of the Provost, SGA, and other campus partners to promote affordability for students.

### *College & Research Libraries to Publish Article on Information Literacy Instruction*

Amber Willenborg and Rob Detmering's article, "I Don't Think Librarians Can Save Us: The Material Conditions of Information Literacy Instruction in the Misinformation Age," was recently accepted for publication in *College & Research Libraries* next year and is currently available to read via [Think IR](#).

### **Technical Services**

#### *Successful Migration!*

Technical Services has successfully migrated to our temporary spaces while the construction kicks off in LL35. Tyler, John, Chloe, and Alexis have joined Rayanne in 277, Michael and Diana can be found in 409, while Tami stays to brave it out. The shelving configuration in what remains accessible in LL35 is ever-changing as we continue to adjust and learn what will work most efficiently in this interim.

#### *Cookies!*

In 277, we have begun experimentation with novelty cookie flavors! Strawberry lemonade, key-lime pie, and "space dunk" have been among the odd flavors. We encourage any curious cookie curators to stop by to try a cookie or let us know what other non-traditional flavors we can snack on to distract from the vibrations of construction!



#### *Book Transfer Project Moves Ahead*

The transfer project of books from the third floor to the Robotic Retrieval System and Compact Storage continues. Rest assured; we have made a significant dent. Progress is determined by cookies present in the office.

### **Law Library**

#### *New Publication*

Kurt X. Metzmeier, Interim Director of the Law Library, recently celebrated the publication of *Legal Research in a Nutshell* (15th ed.) through West Academic Publishing. This edition was co-authored by Michael Whiteman, former law librarian at the Brandeis School of Law Law Library from 1995-2002 and current director of the Law Library at University of Cincinnati. You can find Interim Director Metzmeier's new publication available for checkout in the Law Library's Reserve Collection.



### *Honoring Thirty Years of Service*

The UofL Faculty Service Awards Dinner, held in the spring each year, honors longtime faculty who have served the university for 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, or more years. This year's dinner took place at the Student Activity Center on April 30, 2024. Our own Scott Campbell marked his 30-year anniversary with the Law Library. Scott, who started his UofL career as the law school's Computer Services Librarian and later moved into the Technical Services Librarian role, also serves as the Archivist of the Louis D. Brandeis Collection.

Photo right: *Brandeis School of Law Dean Melanie Jacobs celebrates with Scott Campbell at the Faculty Service Awards Dinner, April 30, 2024.*



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Above: *Dennis Dimick posing outside of The Courier-Journal building on Broadway. Photo by Scott Goldsmith, December 20, 1979.*



Above right: *Tom Owen points out items of interest in the Louisville skyline to, from left, Gong Pusheng, Yu Peiwen, and Bi Jilong. Photo by James H. Wallace on August 29, 1987.*



Right: *Dr. Robert Douglas, a professor of Art History at UofL, hand-painted a tablecloth for an auction to benefit the Hite Art Institute and Louisville Visual Arts Association. Photo by James H. Wallace, September 23, 1989*



## **Hannelore Busch Rader**

**1937 - 2024**

Hannelore Rader, Dean of University Libraries from 1997-2009. She was a dynamic leader, a member of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions and an early advocate of Information Literacy. During her tenure, the University Libraries installed the Robotic Retrieval System. With Hannelore's leadership, the University Libraries achieved membership in the Association of Research Libraries. Hannelore Rader was a force to be reckoned with.

<https://waltonfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/230/Hannelore-Rader/obituary.html>

Photo above: *Hannelore Rader holding her retirement card made by George McWhorter, to her left.*

# Library Exhibits



## General Exhibit Hours

Monday-Friday, 10 AM to 5 PM  
Archives & Special Collections Galleries  
Ekstrom Library, Lower Level

More about the exhibit in the news:  
From Spectrum News — [As Pride Month begins, Kentucky honors the contributions of LGBTQ+ communities](#)

and from UofL News — [UofL's fairness retrospective exhibit showcases inspirational LGBTQ+ history](#)



Thank you

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