

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY™

Kresge Library



A Message from the Dean

It has been a busy Winter and Spring at OU Libraries. We have seen more and more activity in the building over the past year and the number of visitors has noticeably increased even this past semester. Because I started my tenure here in the summer of COVID (2020), the evolution of the OU Libraries over the past three years has been energizing! I am so pleased to be able to host events in the Library and to see our space fill up with students who are studying and socializing.



We have a lot of people news in this issue of our newsletter. It is always bittersweet to see our student assistants and interns graduate – we will miss them, certainly, but we are excited to see them begin the next phase of their lives and careers. Congratulations and good luck to Mo and Sophie!

Likewise, Kris Condic's announcement of her intention to retire was met with mixed emotions. It is hard to imagine Kresge Library without Kris (after 39 years!), but I am so happy that she will be able to devote her time to doing the things she loves the most!

I wish that I had had the opportunity to meet Richard Pettengill and learn more about him. I know he holds a special place in the hearts of many current and former OU Libraries faculty and staff. I am excited to be able to honor his memory and 36 years on the library faculty through his endowment.

I want to send congratulations out to Curtis Armstrong, Penny Nyberg, Michael Nyberg, and Joan Rosen for the much-deserved accolades they recently received.

Please keep reading to learn more about all these amazing people and our recent library events.

Have a great summer!

Polly D. Boruff-Jones, Dean of University Libraries





Remembering Richard Pettengill (1942-2023)

We are sad to inform you of the passing of Professor Emeritus Richard Pettengill on Wednesday, February 15, 2023.

Richard joined Kresge Library in 1969 and retired in 2005. He was the serials specialist, and played a major role in managing the library's collection development and acquisitions process. His comprehensive historical information about building construction and facility issues, made him invaluable in the planning and construction of the additions to Kresge Library.

Those who knew Richard remember him as being quite amiable and never heard him say anything negative about another human being. He traveled extensively, almost always by train, and would send postcards to the library and to his friends. He was also quite famous for his brownies, and they were always a hit at library get-togethers. Richard will be missed by all those who had the pleasure to know him.

The Richard Pettengill Endowment is being established with funds from his estate and gifts from his friends.

Congratulations, Graduates!!

Sophie Techentin, B.A.

Sophie Techentin recently received her Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations and Strategic Communications. She was the marketing intern for the University Libraries from Fall 2022 through Spring 2023. Her favorite thing about working at Kresge Library was "the flexibility for work hours and amount of unique tasks I got to work on...And it was great that I never had to worry about my hours during exam times or when things got stressful."



Originally from Hartland, Michigan, Sophie is looking forward to seeing her family and cat, Caesar, when she moves back home. Best wishes from all of us at Kresge Library, Sophie!



Mohiuddin Baig, B.S.

Mohiuddin Baig received his Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems, with a specialization in Information Security Management. Mo was a technology intern for the University Libraries Technology Services through the Fall 22 semester. His favorite thing about working at Kresge Library was "the people. I made a lot of friends and great memories in my time working and studying here. I will always appreciate and remember my time at Kresge Library."

Originally from right here in Auburn Hills, Michigan, Mo is looking forward to further his career in IT, spending time with family and loved ones, and taking time for more adventures and hobbies. Best of luck in all you do, Mo, from your friends at Kresge Library!

Dr. Curtis Armstrong, Hon.DHum

Curtis Armstrong was selected to receive a Doctor of Arts *Honoris Causa* on Friday, April 28. His wife, Elaine Aronson, joined him at the commencement.



Curtis graduated from Oakland University's Academy of Dramatic Art in 1975 and went on to a career in theatre, film, television, and voice-over that continues today. Following his graduation, he appeared at Meadow Brook Theatre for several seasons and, with members of his graduating class, founded a theatre company, Roadside Attractions, which later became Detroit's Attic Theatre.

In 2018, he wrote the memoir *Revenge of the Nerd - or The Singular Adventures of the Man Who Would Be "Booger,"* published by St. Martin's Press and, with Elliott Milstein, co-authored *A Plum Assignment: Discourses on P.G. Wodehouse and His World*, published by Winch and Clutterbuck. His papers are housed in the Kresge Library Archives. Congratulations, Dr. Armstrong!

In Other News



Alumni Recognition

Each year the Oakland University Alumni Night of Excellence honors alumni achievements in business, community service, volunteerism, and more. Three members from the Kresge Library Board of Advocacy and Resource Development were honored this year. Alums **Penny and Michael Nyberg**, SECS '63 and CAS '88 will receive the Alumni Spirit Award, and **retired English professor Joan Rosen** will receive the Honorary Alumni Award. Congratulations to Penny, Mike, and Joan!

Library Faculty Scholarship Honored

For National Library Week (April 23-29) we celebrated the scholarship of our library faculty members with a display of their work in our lobby display cases. Come in and see the display and check out the bibliography of their publications at [this link](#)!

OU Libraries Digital Collections

Did you know that you could now discover (or re-discover) events and people from OU's past through the [Oakland University Libraries Digital Collections](#)?

These fully online collections were first launched in Fall 2021, as Kresge Library was celebrating its 60th anniversary, with the help of the OU archives and digital strategies team. First up was a [selection of historical library images](#). Since then, our digital collections have grown tremendously and will continue to grow. We encourage you to check out a wide variety of images from the University Archives and Special Collections, and especially the wonderful [collection of university photographs](#).

With nearly 4,000 images as of this date, this digital archive covers the history of OU since its founding. You can explore OU's [snow carnival](#), [the Wilson Hall cornerstone laying ceremony](#), the [early dorms](#), and much, much more! Did you know that students once [played hockey on Bear Lake](#)?

All this was made possible by Digital Initiatives Assistant Margie Friant, who expertly uses the scanner and equipment in the Krompart-Hildebrand digitization lab to transfer archival photographs from paper to electronic files. Other members of the team include Molly McGuire, Digital Strategies Librarian, and Dominique Daniel, Coordinator of Archives and Special Collections.

But you can help too! If you recognize someone or something in a photo, or if you spot a mistake, you can share this information with us. At the bottom of [each online image](#) you will find an opportunity to enter a comment or submit a "tag" (or keyword), which staff will then review.

The preservation and digitization of the university photograph collection are made possible with generous support from the Krompart-Hildebrand Digitization Fund, the Phillip and Barbara Williams Endowed Fund for Kresge Library, and the Charter Challenge Endowment.



Sustainability at Kresge Library

The OU Libraries' Sustainability Committee was formed in 2022 and is composed of faculty and staff from various departments and roles around the library. Through their work, they hope to make the library more sustainable and encourage renewed focus on the natural environment and sustainability around campus.

This fall the committee launched 3 new initiatives both located on the main level of the library - a Little Free Library for the exchange of free used books, a Seed Library with free vegetable and flower seeds, and a curated collection of books on sustainability topics which was launched during finals week.



Call him Ishwhale!

Congratulations to OU Professor Jeff Insko and his students from ENG 3681, Literature and the Environment, for creating a "whale" of a cool project. This whale - named Ishwhale, of course - is stuffed with plastic and symbolizes the impact that humans have on the environment. Ishwhale lived in the Kresge Library lobby until June 1st, when he was moved to the Oakland Center for the [Climate Summit](#). See if you can spot Kresge Library's new marketing intern, Chloe Kukuk, in this photo. (Hint: last row, fifth from the left)



OU Libraries' Stress-Free Finals Frenzy

During Final Exam Week April 20-26, the Kresge Library hosted several events to help students de-stress, re-energize, and refuel. Events included free coffee, free, snacks, Pause for Puppies, and free massages. Thank you to [Leader Dogs for the Blind](#), [Pawsitive Changes Therapy Dogs](#), [Irene's Myomassology Institute](#), and the [Oakland University Credit Union](#) for sponsoring the week of events in support of OU students.

Giving to OU Libraries

**Oakland University
Kresge Library**

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