



HEARSAY

NEWS FROM THE WHEAT LAW LIBRARY

Volume 4, Issue 2 – Summer 2009

Director's Corner



Hundreds of my colleagues and I were recognized on May 5, 2009 for our years of service at the University of Kansas. I couldn't believe how proud I was to receive my small but valuable fifteen year service pen. The wonderful ceremony reminded me that it is a privilege and an honor to work here. And I can state, unequivocally, that I am proud to be a Jayhawk.

When I stepped into the KU Law Library fifteen years ago, the first thing that caught my attention was the huge card catalog. Card catalogs are a thing of the past, and shortly after we removed it I must admit that I was a little sad. Times and library cultures have changed. Nowadays the only place you can find a card catalog is in an antique store. I recently

saw one at a person's home and it definitely didn't contain library cards. Instead it was a rather beautiful looking piece of furniture arranged amongst the other items in the living room.

Fifteen years ago, the library faculty and staff were much smaller and the position titles were more traditional. The physical space in the library has changed. Over the last decade or so we have added offices to accommodate the larger staff, but removed books and stacks to create new study rooms and classrooms. The law library has fewer books and more computers and has transformed itself to an information center which reaches outside the library; a veritable library without walls.

Students, faculty and patrons have also changed. Students request online resources, databases and websites, faculty request a combination of books, dvds, cds and podcasts for courses and research. So much has changed over the past fifteen years. One thing that has not changed is our strong commitment to educating and training the next generation of attorneys, public servants and CEO's and providing the highest quality public and instructional service to all who use the library. As scholarly communication and knowledge management rapidly

change there is no substitute, even in the 21st century, for the expertise librarians and information specialists have in searching and finding reliable, accurate information. The law library is still the first and last place you can go for legal and interdisciplinary information whether it's digital, visual or fits right in your ear.

See you in the library!

Joyce McCray Pearson
Director & Associate Professor



The **popular reading shelves** were expanded from **one to three bookcases**. The bookcases were donated by Professor Michael Hoeflich.

As you can see our new shelves are quite bare! Please feel free to donate your gently used **hardback** popular titles for this collection. You can drop off the donation at the reference desk.

Remember to come check out the popular reading materials!

? Suggest a topic for a Brown Bag

Students — are you curious about any of the resources the library offers? Want to know more about the database that will help you find the resources you need for your research paper?

Faculty — see your PLC if you would like to have a topical database demonstrated for your class.

New Database will be available this summer

The library added two BNA products last year, the *BNA Daily Labor Report* and BNA's *International Trade Reporter*. In June the *BNA All* collection will become available. BNA provides timely access to legal news and analysis in many areas of the law. It is a great research tool providing information and access to many topical areas, BNA describes their collection in the following way...

BNA is a leading publisher of print and electronic news and information, reporting on developments in health care, business, labor relations, law, economics, taxation, environmental protection, safety, and other public policy and regulatory issues.

Our new subscription to *BNA All* will become active in early June. Come by the reference desk and learn more about the resource. Librarians will also be available for classroom and desk-side training for faculty and students.



Two from Wheat Law Library Acknowledged at the Employee Appreciation Ceremony

On May 5th two people from Wheat Law Library were given recognition for attaining another five years with the University.



Gale Troth

Gale Troth was acknowledged for her 30 years of service to the University. In 1979 Gale began working at the University of Kansas. She started working in the law library in 1989. She has been the Accountant for

the library for the last 6 years.

Joyce McCray Pearson celebrates 15 years with KU, she came to the law library in 1994 as electronic services librarian. In 1995 she was named the associate director of the library and in 1997 she became director of the law library and associate professor of law.



Joyce McCray Pearson



Katherine Greene Granted Tenure



Katherine Greene

Congratulations to Katherine Greene, this spring she became a tenured librarian.

Kat has been the Automation & Acquisitions Librarian since July 2003, before that she served as the Acquisitions Manager.

~~~~~ LIBRARY NEWS ~~~~~



**PUBLICATIONS** –

Joe Custer was a co-winner for the AALL/Lexis-Nexis call for papers with his article *The Truthiness of Thinkable Thoughts versus the Facts of Empirical Research*. The article involves his critique of the West Digest System based on empirical research he conducted with Douglas County Bar attorneys.

Joe will be presenting his winning paper in Washington D.C. at the American Association of Law Libraries conference this July.



**TEACHING** –

During this Summer’s second session, Joyce McCray Pearson will teach Law & Literature.

Coming up in the fall Joe Custer will teach Topics in Advanced Legal Research for Missouri; Chris Steadham will teach Topics in Advanced Legal Research for Kansas; and Blake Wilson will head up the Research portion of the Lawyering course.



**TRAINING** –

Need to firm up those research skills for topical papers? Blake Wilson will be hosting Brown Bag Training Sessions on various topics including library resources. If you have a suggestion for a topic, let us know.

Remember that whenever you have questions or would like to learn more about any of the library services come into the library and let us know. We are here to assist you!



~~~~~ **Changes in the Library** ~~~~~

At some point this summer there will be some construction on the second floor in the library. You might not notice the dust rising if you don’t spend a lot of time on the main floor.

In order to comply with fire codes there will be a hallway installed to provide direct access to the back stairwell.

The construction will be limited to the far back corner of the reference room, next to Joe Custer’s office, where the comfy chairs now reside.

Some access will be restricted to a few of the offices in the library during the construction.



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IN LAW SCHOOL BEGINS
..... AT THE LIBRARY**

VISIT US ON THE WEB!
[http://www.law.ku.edu/
library/](http://www.law.ku.edu/library/)

As the largest and oldest law library in Kansas, the Wheat Law Library is an integral part of the School of Law. It serves the law school and university community in legal and interdisciplinary scholarly pursuits and provides attorneys, judges, and the general public with access to legal information. Key components of this mission include collecting and preserving Kansas, national, and international legal documents, teaching legal information literacy, and serving as a legal information gateway by providing access to sources beyond the scope of the physical collection.

Wheat Law Library Staff

- Joseph Custer** - Associate Director & Head of Tech Services
- Katherine Greene** - Automation & Acquisitions Librarian
- Su Johnson** - Circulation Department Manager
- Jesse Kaufman** - Technology Support Technician
- Joyce A. McCray Pearson** - Director & Associate Professor
- Jeff Montgomery** - Serials Department Manager
- Christopher Steadham** - Faculty Services & Research Librarian
- Tammy J. Steinle McLain** - IT & Digital Librarian
- Marsha Tiemann** - Cataloging Manager
- Gale Troth** - Accounts Manager
- Pamela Tull** - Head of Public Services
- Lauren Van Waardhuizen** - Cataloging Librarian
- W. Blake Wilson** - Instructional & Research Services Librarian

LIBRARY SUMMER HOURS

Regular Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday noon - 5:00 pm
Sunday noon - 8:00 pm

Finals Hours (June 17, 18, 23-25, July 23-28)

Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 10:00 pm
Saturday noon - 7:00 pm
Sunday noon - 10:00 pm

Exceptions

Thursday, July 2 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Fri, July 3-Sat, July 4 CLOSED

Intersession Hours (Wed, July 29 - Wed, Aug 19)

Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday-Sunday CLOSED