

The University of Nebraska at Kearney is an Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Institution.

## Museum of Nebraska Art

*On Display at the Calvin T. Ryan Library*

### Frederick Dwight Kirsch 1899-1981

Frederick Dwight Kirsch was born in Pawnee County, Nebraska, January 28, 1899. He graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1919 with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Art and French. He studied briefly at the Art Students' League in New York (1919-1922) and the Parsons School of Design in New York (1936). He began as an Art Instructor at the University of Nebraska in 1924. He stayed at the University to become Professor of Art, Chairman of the Art Department, and Director of the University Art Galleries until 1950. Dwight then became the Director of the Des Moines Art Center from 1950-1958. In 1953, he received an honorary Doctorate Degree of Fine Arts from Grinnell College. Kirsch was an Artist-in-Residence at Iowa State University and conducted art workshops there from 1959-1965. Kirsch continued making art, exhibiting his artwork, juror for exhibitions, hosting art workshops and lectures, and traveling. He died in Colorado Springs, Colorado on September 25, 1981.



*Corn in the Snow, 1960*

He received many distinguished awards and honors for his artwork. His work is part of the permanent collection of numerous art galleries and museums including the Wichita Art Museum, Sheldon Museum of Art, Joslyn Art Museum, Museum of Nebraska Art, and the Great Plains Art Museum with select pieces currently on display at the Calvin T. Ryan Library.

# IN BRIEF

Calvin T. Ryan Library Newsletter

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## Changes at the Calvin T. Ryan Library

College and University libraries have and are changing. They no longer simply house collections of printed materials. This is particularly true of the Calvin T. Ryan Library as we acquire access to more electronic resources.

In this era of electronic information, research has become a more complicated process. Sources of information may be in any number of formats and researchers are inundated with a bewildering array of options. What is increasingly clear is that the ability to publish information, electronically in most cases, does not make it valid, authoritative, or scholarly. Just finding articles on the Web is not research. One major challenge we face as a library is to assist users in identifying, sorting, evaluating, and integrating useful information.

The information age has required an expanded approach to what has traditionally been called "bibliographic instruction." Supporting "information literacy" as a component of undergraduate education requires an institutional commitment. This means that graduating students should have the ability to identify, locate, evaluate, and integrate information in all of its forms during their school years and as a lifelong skill. In order to accomplish that goal, librarians are working to make connections with faculty across campus and have developed course modules and instruction.

As a faculty and student meeting place, the library serves as the symbolic 'intellectual heart' for the campus. It provides a secure, comfortable, and supportive atmosphere that fosters both individual and collaborative learning, with access to current technologies for both our residential and commuting students.

This issue of *In Brief* introduces three recent additions to the Calvin T. Ryan Library staff – all bring experiences and expertise that are new to the Library and UNK; individuals that will expand and enhance the services the Library provides for the UNK community.

Julia Powell, Instruction Coordinator and Government Documents Librarian, holds a second graduate degree in Natural Science. Her specialized subject expertise and extensive teaching experience are a wonderful fit for UNK at this point in its history.

Laurinda Weisse and Sally Sinor are the first professionally trained Archivists to hold positions at the Library. Their combined expertise will help in the collection, organization and preservation of the irreplaceable materials that tell the story of the institution that is now UNK. Their work will establish the UNK Archives and Special Collections as an accessible, working resource for UNK students, faculty and the broader community.

You will meet these talented people on the following pages and will be hearing more about their work in the future.

## New Library Coordinator of Instruction

Julia Powell was hired by the Calvin T. Ryan Library in July 2014 as the Coordinator of Instruction and the Government Documents Librarian. Julia holds a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of North Texas. In addition she has a Master of Science degree in Natural Science, with an emphasis in Biology and Chemistry, from Stephen F. Austin State University.



Julia Powell

Julia also serves as the library liaison to the departments of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Math, Geography, and Earth Science. Julia and her husband moved to Kearney from Seguin, TX (about 30 miles east of San Antonio) in July 2012. They have two children, a 7th grader and a 5th grader, attending Kearney Public Schools. Their family decided to move to Kearney because her husband, Lee, accepted a tenure-track position as a physicist and planetarium director here at UNK.

During her first two years in Nebraska, she taught science and health to middle school and high school students at Ravenna High School. Julia previously taught high school and middle school science in both Louisiana, and Texas public schools. She has over 13 years of teaching experience, and is certified to teach in both Texas and Nebraska.

As the Coordinator of Instruction, Julia collaborates with other librarians to build on the Library's efforts to develop sound learning experiences which will enhance critical thinking skills, and build information literacy competencies with our students at UNK. Julia states that "with the ever growing amount of information that is given to us each and every day, students must learn how to disseminate and communicate that data into usable material." She also says that this is one of the reasons why she wanted to become a librarian, and one of the challenges she faced everyday while a classroom teacher.

## New University Archivist

In October 2014, Laurinda Weisse joined the Calvin T. Ryan Library faculty as its first University Archivist. She is chiefly responsible for collecting, preserving and making available materials that document the history of UNK. Laurinda earned a master's of science in information from the University of Michigan, with specialties in archives, records management, and

preservation of information. She previously served as a Reference/Special Projects Librarian at UNK.

During an undergraduate history seminar, Laurinda had the opportunity to conduct archival research. This experience stuck with her, and when she was choosing a graduate program, she decided to combine her love for helping people find information with her affinity for history. While completing her master's, Laurinda worked in Interlibrary Loan, as a Reference Assistant, and as an OCLC Research intern. Her reference experience cemented a desire to assist people in connecting with information.



Laurinda Weisse

Beyond preserving physical materials, Laurinda hopes to strengthen preservation of digital materials and make it easier for people to discover the treasures of the UNK Archives. "The first place that most researchers look for material is online, with many assuming that if there is no online presence, the material doesn't exist at all. I hope to strengthen the UNK Archives online presence so that it better represents the strengths of our physical collection."

## New Project Archivist

This November the faculty and staff of the Calvin T. Ryan Library were pleased to welcome Sally Sinor to the position of Project Archivist for the Alice Paine Room. In this position, Sally will be processing the Archives and Special Collections held by the University of Nebraska at Kearney in order to provide students and researchers better access to the primary source materials. She holds a Master's degree in Library and Information Science with a specialization in Archives from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.



Sally Sinor

Sally donned her first pair of white cotton gloves as a student curator at the Northlight Gallery for Photography at Arizona State University. After earning her Bachelor's Degree, she moved to the San Juan Mountains, volunteering and then working for the Telluride Historical Museum. From there, her varied career path took her around the country before returning her to her home state of Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina. Library school had always been on her radar. With a recession in progress, it was a good time to pursue the degree at LSU. While in grad school, Sally

became a Raging Cajun working in the Special Collections of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Upon graduation, she accepted the position as the Archivist for the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana Free and Accepted Masons.

What brings this southerner all the way to the plains of Nebraska? "The opportunity to create a collection from the ground up. I enjoy bringing order to chaos. The thrill of discovery is what drew me into the dirty and dusty world of Archives and Special Collections. You just never know what you will find, be it an item or a story, when you open that box."

## Florence M. Wagner Scholarship

Aaron Ohri, a Criminal Justice major from O'Neill, Nebraska, is the 2014 recipient of the Florence M. Wagner Scholarship. Aaron follows his brothers, Ryan and Kevin in working for the Library's Circulation Department. In addition, three Ohri first cousins – Danny, Katie, and Angie -- have worked for that department during their years at UNK. All are from the O'Neill and Spencer areas of Nebraska. The Scholarship, given yearly to a student worker who is a graduate of a Nebraska high school, is made possible through an endowment established by Florence Wagner's daughter, Carolyn Snyder.

## Support the Calvin T. Ryan Library

There are a number of ways that you can help Calvin T. Ryan Library including:

**Gifts that strengthen collections** - Do the books you love need a new home? They may be just what is needed to enhance the library collection. We are especially interested in books and other materials with a UNK, Nebraska, or Great Plains connection. See this site for details: <http://library.unk.edu/about/giving.php>

**Buy a book for the library** - Buy a book for the Calvin T. Ryan Library" is a way to commemorate, congratulate, or memorialize a relative, friend, professor or colleague.

With a gift to buy a book, a bookplate with a personalized message will be placed in each new book purchased by the library. The bookplate will include the name of the donor and the name of anyone the donor chooses to honor or recognize. A copy of the personalized message and a letter of acknowledgement will be sent to the donor and, when possible, the honoree or the honoree's family. The information will also appear in the library's online catalog of materials.

To support the "Buy a Book for the Calvin T. Ryan Library" program, visit [nufoundation.org/unkbuyabook](http://nufoundation.org/unkbuyabook). To learn more or to request a brochure, contact Anne McConkey at the University of Nebraska Foundation at 308-698-5282 or [amcconkey@nufoundation.org](mailto:amcconkey@nufoundation.org).

**Provide Financial Support** - Private financial support is

vital to creating a margin of excellence at the Calvin T. Ryan Library. Your gifts assist in bringing valuable collections of information to the library, as well as creating a physical environment which compliments learning for all library users. Gifts supporting the library are tax deductible and are handled by the University of Nebraska Foundation, a 501(c) (3) corporation. For more information, please contact the University of Nebraska Foundation's Kearney office at P.O. Box 2678, 214 W. 39th St., Kearney, NE 68848; or call 308-698-5270; or give online at <https://nufoundation.org/unk/library>.

## Tim Slessor Presentation

The Library, in collaboration with the History, Sociology, English, and Communications Departments, hosted speaker and retired BBC documentary producer Tim Slessor, Tuesday, November 4th.

Nebraskans do not have to look hard to see where the Brits may have had an early presence: Oxford, Cambridge, Crawford, Norfolk, Bridgeport, Exeter, Litchfield, Lancaster, Wakefield, Walton and at least a dozen more. The same is true in Wyoming and Montana. But perhaps more interesting are the stories of individual immigrants – especially the well-to-do second sons of England's landed gentry. What, for example, brought the Queen to spend a week on a horse-ranch in the shadow of Wyoming's Big Horn Mountains? Who in the 1920's, after his father – the Earl of Portsmouth – and then his elder brother died, uniquely had a seat in the Wyoming Legislature and the House of Lords? Of course, there is much more to it than that as Slessor shared in his presentation to a group in Copeland Hall and in his book *More than Cowboys*.



Tim Slessor

Mr. Slessor's presentation was made possible by the Mari Sandoz High Plains Heritage Center at Chadron State College through a private donation to the Chadron State Foundation.

In Brief is a publication of the Calvin T. Ryan Library, University of Nebraska Kearney. It is designed to keep friends of the library informed about library changes and events. Its production is overseen by the Library Publications Committee. Current members are:

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