HEARSAY...
The path to success in law school begins at the library

News From The University of Kansas School of Law Wheat Law Library

5th ANNUAL PAUL E. WILSON FRIENDS OF THE WHEAT LAW LIBRARY MEETING SLATED FOR APRIL 6th: Esteemed KU Law Alumnus Robert W. Loyd to be Guest of Honor & Featured Speaker

The Wheat Law Library will hold the 5th Annual Paul E. Wilson Friends of the Wheat Law Library lecture on Thursday, April 6th in the Rice Room at 12:30 p.m. Our guest of honor and featured speaker will be Robert W. Loyd. Mr. Loyd is an esteemed alum of the University of Kansas School of Law and “Of Counsel” at The Elder & Disability Law Firm in Overland Park. Mr. Loyd and several of his 62 classmates have graciously enabled the library to purchase two beautiful new display cases, currently located on the 5th floor of the Wheat Law Library. The library invites the students and faculty of KU Law to join us in showing our appreciation for this generosity. A light lunch and refreshments will be served in what should be an informative and entertaining forum.

The library holds the annual Paul E. Wilson Friends of the Wheat Law Library lecture each April in conjunction with National Library Week. Professor Wilson was an ardent supporter of the KU Law Library and an expert in legal history. As a scholar who regularly perused rare law books and antiquated legal records, he had a deep knowledge of the importance of preserving the printed history of the law. In recognition of Professor Wilson’s legacy, the library uses the annual lecture to promote an appreciation for the importance of legal history, law books and publishing, and the impact of law on literary and academic culture. Recognition of the rich heritage of KU Law, epitomized by Jayhawks such as Paul E. Wilson and Robert W. Loyd, is an important component of the Wheat Law Library’s role in preserving and promoting the history of the law school. We hope you will join us for this event as well as the several other events held during National Library Week, such as the 22nd Annual Hazel A. Anderson Memorial Book Sale held on Wednesday, April 5th from 8 a.m. to Noon.

E-RESERVE SYSTEM SIMPLIFIES COURSE RESERVES

The recently implemented E-Reserve system has proven to be a valuable addition to the wide range of student services offered by the Wheat Law Library. Nearly all course reserve material has been digitally scanned into the E-Reserve system and is now only a mouse-click away. Certain copyrighted materials continue to be accessible only in paper format at the reference desk.

To utilize the E-Reserve system, simply go to the KU Libraries website at: http://www.lib.ku.edu/.

Follow the “Library Catalog” link and click on the “Course Reserve” tab. Narrow your document search by instructor or course if necessary. Most electronic course reserve documents are now at your fingertips even if you are nowhere near the library!
Serials Manager Jeff Montgomery Marks 30 Years with KU Law

Nearly 30 years have passed since Jeff Montgomery began working as a student circulation assistant at Old Green Hall on the Hill (now known as Lippincott Hall). When Montgomery, now Serials Manager at the Wheat Law Library in the friendly confines of “new” Green Hall, reflects upon his time at KU Law, he draws upon a wealth of experience shared by few staff members.

Jeff has seen students and faculty come and go, although he continues to stay in touch with many of the people he has worked with through the years. “That is probably the best part of my job—working with students and helping them to understand the various resources here in the library,” Montgomery remarked. Each Summer and Fall, Jeff helps introduce wide-eyed first-year law students to the strange new world of legal research. He noted that he enjoys watching these young students mature into outstanding attorneys in their three short years at KU Law.

The student body has changed considerably over the years, Montgomery observed. Green Hall is much more diverse than it was in the past, with women and minorities enjoying greater representation. Jeff believes this has been a decidedly positive trend that has enriched the culture of the law school.

Not everything has changed, however, as Montgomery noted that KU Law students are still quite driven and self-motivated. While the admitted classes are now more diverse, they share the same qualities that have propelled past KU Law graduates to successful legal careers.

Jeff has also witnessed the evolution and expansion of the various opportunities available to KU Law students. “In the past, there were far fewer clinical programs to provide students with practical experience. The law school has greatly improved in this area,” Montgomery said.

The law library has also undergone a considerable evolution during Montgomery’s tenure. Electric typewriters were state-of-the-art technology when he began work at Old Green Hall. The advent of e-mail lay far in the future, and the telephones were the old, rotary kind with only a few lines available for the entire library staff. “I remember when we received our first Lexis terminal. It was a gigantic computer that practically filled up an entire room,” he recalled.

Along with witnessing the shift from print resources to the new electronic frontier of legal research, Montgomery has also seen the library staff expand as KU Law continued to grow. Rather than decrease the need for law librarians, the digital revolution created new demands for legal research instruction. “The reference services have greatly improved. In the past there wasn’t always a reference librarian available for research assistance,” Montgomery noted. Indeed, the Wheat Law Library is now a national leader in the number of reference hours offered per week.

While his experience at the law school has generally been positive, there have also been assorted annoyances and frustrations throughout the years. Included among these are some of the “eccentric” members of the public that frequent the law library. “We are a public library, and assisting ‘pro se’ patrons is an important part of the services we offer, but sometimes they can test your patience,” Jeff remarked. Rest assured that he is not referring to patrons simply being unfamiliar with the library’s resources. Rather, many of the theatrics he has witnessed over the years are not fit for print. Ask Jeff about them sometime if you are in the mood for a humorous story or two.

Among other changes that he has witnessed over the years is the evolution of the library’s security system. “At Old Green Hall there used to be a person who would inspect people’s bags as they exited the building,” he remembered. The advent of electronic security systems eliminated the need for that inconvenience.

The changes witnessed by Montgomery over the years illustrate the rapid pace of change in the legal profession in general. His experience helps ground the Wheat Law Library in the tradition of its past when it seeks to accommodate new developments in legal information management. As Wheat Law Library Director Joyce A. McCray Pearson noted, “Jeff often serves a vital ‘institutional memory’ function for the library.” Indeed, Jeff Montgomery deserves recognition for his many years of loyal and dedicated service to KU Law!
Law Library Battles Mother Nature Early This Spring

The town of Lawrence received a rude awakening on the morning of Sunday, March 12, 2006. Thunderstorms with violently strong winds ripped through town and across the KU campus, causing millions of dollars in overall damage. Green Hall did not escape without some damage, and evaluations and estimates are underway. The Wheat Law Library managed to avoid any damage to the library’s collection, although a few windows were broken and/or blown open.

Head of Public & Faculty Services Robert Mead remarked, “We were fairly lucky—only three broken windows. There’s lots of damage on campus, but I think the worst of it passed about 500 yards east of our building.”

These events underscore the importance of effective collection preservation strategies and disaster planning. Mead, who teaches a graduate course on methods of preservation in law libraries, was at the library soon after the storm passed through. Along with Director Joyce A. McCray Pearson, he inspected the library for damage and assessed any potential future problems. “Getting wiped out by a natural disaster is obviously every library’s worst nightmare—here in Kansas we must remain vigilantly prepared for whatever ‘Mother Nature’ throws our way,” Mead said.

Reference Room’s Popular Reading Collection Picking Up Steam

The Reference Room on the 2nd Floor of the Wheat Law Library has added a newly created component to the collection. The Popular Reading Collection, located between the Reference Desk and Director Pearson’s office, is designed to provide law students, faculty, and library patrons the opportunity to read for leisure—for a change! Primarily consisting of novels and biographies related to the legal profession, the collection has rapidly expanded from a handful of hand-me-down novels to several shelves of interesting literature that compliments the library’s core collection.

“We thought this was a good way to make the library a more friendly place to be. The Popular Reading Collection offers a little variety and a change-of-pace from the typical legal research fare in the library,” remarked Director Pearson.

Next time you are in the library, peruse the Popular Reading Collection. You might just find a little diversion from standard legal literature. The library is also always looking for ways to expand the collection. If you have any hardback books you would be interested in donating, please contact a librarian. We will happily provide them with a worthy new home!

Partnership With E.S.U. Continues to Pay Dividends

Those familiar with the Wheat Law Library are probably aware that KU Law has joined Emporia State University to offer a unique Master’s Degree program in law librarianship. This program, which leads to a degree in Legal Information Management, is designed to combine the library school curriculum with a focus upon the unique requirements of law libraries.

As the relationship between KU Law and E.S.U. continues to grow and evolve, the Wheat Law Library benefits from this inter-school collaboration in many ways. A good example of this can be found in volunteers such as Hiram Lucke, a graduate of E.S.U.’s M.L.S. program. Although Hiram pursued a general M.L.S. rather than the specialized M.L.I.M. degree, he is building his expertise while volunteering to assist the Wheat Law Library in various projects throughout the library. Be sure to welcome Hiram to the collegial KU Law community if you see him around the 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**

Carolyn Clark - Instructional & Research Services Librarian  
Joseph Custer - Associate Director & Head of Collection Development  
Katherine Greene - Automation & Acquisitions Librarian  
Su Johnson - Circulation Department Manager  
Joyce A. McCray Pearson - Library Director & Associate Professor of Law  
Robert Mead - Head of Public & Faculty Services  
Jeff Montgomery - Serials Department Manager  
Allison Reeve - Library Assistant  
Charles Rigdon - Technology Support  
Christopher Steadham - Research & Reference Services Attorney  
Marsha Tiemann - Cataloging Manager  
Gale Troth - Accounts Manager  
Pamela Tull - Outreach Services Librarian  
Lauren Van Waardhuizen - Library Assistant

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**22nd Annual Hazel A. Anderson Memorial Book Sale To Be Held On April 5th**

The 22nd Annual Hazel A. Anderson Memorial Book Sale will be held on Wednesday, April 5th in the informal commons from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. The Book Sale is one of the library’s many traditions in honor of National Library Week, which this year is April 2nd through April 8th. Numerous volumes, not incorporated into the library’s collection for various reasons, will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The Book Sale offers an excellent opportunity to stock up on legal materials ranging from substantive references to ornamental office decorations. The nominal prices ensure that this will likely be the cheapest law book investment you ever make. It may feel like stealing, but rest assured that you are not committing an honor code violation when you walk away with a diamond-in-the-rough for a mere pittance.

The library also invites students to volunteer to work at the sale, which directly benefits KU Law and the Wheat Law Library. Get involved, make a difference, and get a great deal!