



Featured Article: Creativity has a Home in the Oviatt Library

Contributed by Web Programmer David Morck

Mission, Vision and Values

One of the wonderful things about libraries is that they transform to meet the needs of the community, embrace and experiment with new ideas, and provide spaces for research, culture and collaboration. In this issue of our eNews, we explore the Oviatt Library as a space for creativity, and how important the creative process is towards fostering student and community success. See Dean Mark Stover's article [Creativity - The Secret Sauce of Student Success](#). The Oviatt Library has undergone tremendous changes over recent years, and its [Mission, Vision and Values](#) reflect those changes. The Library as a creative space is reflected in our mission as creating "innovative physical and virtual spaces," and providing "diverse education and cultural programming in support of student success."



Students enjoying leisure reading in the Robert and Maureen Gohstand Leisure Reading Room

Creative Spaces

The Library has changed a lot since the introduction of our [Learning Commons](#) on our Main Floor. What was once a homogeneous experience in the Library has now become myriad choices for where and how our spaces can be used. The Learning Commons provides a highly configurable space where students can work collaboratively and configure their space for their needs, whether it be planning projects on our banks of computers, exchanging ideas in our group study areas and collaborative shared screens, or scribbling on our white walls -- anything from complex equations to doodles. These spaces truly belong to our students. If collaborative and social doesn't fit the mold, there are quiet study areas on the upper floors -- no matter what brings you into your own creative space, the Library can provide.

Creative spaces can be found almost everywhere you look: the [Teacher Curriculum Center \(TCC\)](#) has arts and crafts, and materials for instructors that help them reach out to the younger generation. The TCC will soon be merging with our [Music & Media](#) department, which houses everything from DVDs to sheet music from our International Guitar Research Archive, and will be a rich environment full of

color, music and arts. A wonderful merging between two highly creative departments is also making way for even more resources in the Library, such as the Map Library, and our collaboration with the Tom and Ethel Bradley Center. Special Collections continues to evolve with a beautiful new space, and an ever-changing exhibition space. Learning Commons Technology and the [Creative Media Studio](#) not only lend laptops, cameras, tablets, and other digital technology, but also offer technical assistance, workshops, and competitions with the support of expert staff and highly trained student assistants. The staff and students there are highly motivated to contribute their expertise and guidance, whether you want to learn to record a song in Pro Tools, edit a video in Final Cut, or join a group project to submit to a competition.

Creative Programming

The Library has never been busier and more abuzz with exciting programs, events and competitions. The Creative Media Studio is wrapping up their [3Duino Challenge](#), which offers teams of students, from high school to university, a chance to compete using 3D Printing and Arduino microcomputers. Thus far in 2018 we have had author talks, such as Steven J. Ross, who authored the Pulitzer Prize nominated *Hitler in Los Angeles: How Jews Foiled Nazi Plots Against Hollywood and America*, using materials from our very own [Special Collections and Archives](#). The Library hosts multiple annual event series, such as Black History Month, where this year we had a political panel discussion and a performance in our Learning Commons from slam poetry group Vocal ARTillery. In March, we hosted WISE's (Women in Science and Engineering) Pi Day celebration and reception to promote mentorship and the inclusion of women in science.

The Oviatt Library [Bradley Center](#) offered author talks and film screenings, such as [“Devil’s Freedom: the Consequences of the War on Drugs and Mexico.”](#) This April is National Poetry Month (link is external) and we have hosted reading events in the beautiful [Robert and Maureen Gohstand Leisure Reading Room](#), a space for the quiet enjoyment of reading for pleasure, as well as run a poetry workshop for students. This is just a sample of some of our amazing events. In the future we anticipate an abundance of activities and creative opportunities, and we cannot wait for our patrons to participate. As art director, designer and author George Lois has said “Creativity can solve almost any problem. The creative act, the defeat of habit by originality, overcomes everything.” The Library will continue to be a vital, participatory and creative center on campus, and truly a place where you can Make Your Space.



Figure of Santa Muerte (Saint Death) - from Dr. Laura Roush' event Offerings from Prison: A Collaborative Photo Essay at a Santa Muerte Alta

MAKE YOUR SPACE *creative*

CSUN
OVIATT LIBRARY



What's New and On the Move at the Oviatt Library

Contributed by Library Web Services Coordinator Elizabeth Altman

This month the Library is hosting a student-curated exhibition featuring sources drawn almost entirely from the Oviatt Library's collections. [Queertonal](#) highlights the important narratives of queer and trans musicians, raising questions about the connections between sexuality and creativity, and the challenges unique to queer-identifying musicians and composers. This exhibit is organized and curated by graduating student David Osorio-Vera. Come see how you can listen to music differently in [Music & Media](#), 2nd Floor East Wing, through May 18, 2018.

The Library is continuing to grow through renovation projects and additions that will be underway through the end of the year. First, the [Tom & Ethel Bradley Center Collections](#)

have become part of Special Collections & Archives. The Bradley Center's collections, which include over one million photographic images that document the social, cultural and political lives of the diverse communities in Southern California from the early 20th century on, will be moving into Special Collections stacks this summer. Users will be able to request and view archive materials in the Special Collections & Archives Reading Room on the 2nd floor.

Also during the summer, the Music & Media area will undergo renovations to make room for the [Teacher Curriculum Center](#) (TCC), which includes the Dr. Karin J. Duran Teacher Curriculum Center Collection and the Sharon Fogarty Young Reader's Collection, both of which are moving up from the Garden level. The result will be a dynamic environment where users of music and film recordings, and music scores and books, will work alongside users of K-12 curriculum materials and children's literature in comfortable study spaces, with support from staff knowledgeable about both collections.

In Spring 2019, the Library will welcome the [Oviatt Library Map Collection](#), which while administratively already part the Library, will be moving from Sierra Hall to the Garden Level area vacated by the Teacher Curriculum Center. The Map Collection is international in scope and covers the world's major regions with particular emphasis on maps of southern California, Los Angeles, and the San Fernando Valley. Included are historical road and tourist maps, topographic maps of the



Materials from the Oviatt Library's Teacher Curriculum Center

United States, WWII maps from the Army Map Service, U.S. Forest Service maps, geologic and bathymetric maps, and maps from the Bureau of Land Management. Starting next spring, users will be able to consult the Map Collection conveniently in the Oviatt Library during more extended hours.



Oviatt Spotlight: Two California Professors Discover the Los Angeles Jewish Community Relations Committee Archives to Write Best Selling Books

Contributed by Gina Flores

In the 1930's the spread of organized anti-Semitism in the United States sparked local Jewish leaders and their allies to form a special defense organization known as the Los Angeles Community Relations Committee, later known as the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles Community Relations Committee (CRC). The CRC's purpose was to work with the Anti-Defamation League, B'nai B'rith, the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, the Council of Jewish Women, and other organizations to fight anti-Semitism in the United States. The Los Angeles Jewish Community Relations Committee Archives, securely housed in the Oviatt Library, have proven to be a highly sought-after source for researchers, national and international scholars, and CSUN faculty and students. As one of the most-frequently consulted archives used in the Oviatt Library, the Los Angeles CRC collection documents the organization's efforts to combat anti-Semitism and educate the public through cooperation with both Jewish and non-Jewish groups, spanning from 1921 to the early 2000's. A large portion of the archival documents are still awaiting funding for processing, cataloging, and digitization.

Most recently, two university professors in California were inspired by these valuable archives, spending countless hours in the Oviatt Library's Special Collections and Archives researching their highly acclaimed books: *Hitler in Los Angeles: How Jews Foiled Nazi Plots Against America* by USC History Professor Steven J. Ross and *Hollywood's Spies: The Undercover Surveillance of Nazis in Los Angeles* by Laura B. Rosenzweig from the University of California.

At a presentation and book signing on the CSUN campus in February 2018, Professor Ross shared that he has been approached by Hollywood to bring his story to the big screen or television. He strongly feels there is too much information for a two-hour movie and would prefer to see a mini-series. "This story isn't about Jews protecting Jews. This story is about average Americans taking a stand against fascism, not using violence, but their intelligence," said Ross. This spring, Ross's *Hitler in Los Angeles* received the prestigious honor of being chosen as



Steven J. Ross and Book Cover for *Hitler in Los Angeles: How Jews Foiled Nazi Plots Against America*

one of two finalists for the 2018 Pulitzer Prize in the history category.

Hitler in Los Angeles and *Hollywood's Spies* shine the light on the little-known story of the underground plots waged by Nazis against major Hollywood figures as part of a plan to dominate the United States. The heroic acts of unsung hero Leon Lewis and his allies command our attention, reminding us of the difference that can be achieved through the power of determined citizens fighting to abolish prejudiced antagonists.

The Los Angeles Jewish CRC archives in the Oviatt Library demonstrate the significant impact on and contribution to improving community relations and ending discrimination, which are so deserving of a national and international profile. To contribute to the preservation of these valuable historic archives, please visit the [Library Giving Page](#).



We Would Like you to Meet: Lora Rosman

Oviatt Library eNews Spotlight on Student Assistants

Tell us about yourself. Who is Lora Rosman?

I am a graduating senior majoring in Psychology and minoring in American Indian Studies. I have been working in the Interlibrary Loan Department (ILL) at the Oviatt Library for three years. Current CSUN students, faculty and staff come to us if the item they need is not available in the Oviatt. I have many duties and responsibilities as a Class III Student Assistant Supervisor, but the main function of my job is to receive books and articles from other schools to make them available to our patrons. I also mail our books and articles to other libraries that would like to borrow them. In addition, I train new students. A fun fact about me is that I am Native American, African American, and Caucasian. I also love to sing and listen to music as much as I can!



Oviatt Library Student Assistant Lora Rosman

How does the Oviatt Library support your creative projects?

The Oviatt Library has supported my creative projects by giving me access to various books and articles for research. OneSearch, the new library cataloging system, has been a great help for me whenever I need to conduct research for an assignment. It allows you to customize your search results and has also broadened its search to other CSU collections, which has been very helpful!

What's your favorite place in the Library?

My favorite place in the library is in the Learning Commons area.

What advice would you give to a new CSUN student about the Oviatt Library's resources?

I would tell a new CSUN student to take advantage of Interlibrary Loan! Throughout my years at CSUN I have noticed my peers buy textbooks for a class when they could have submitted a request through ILL. I have hardly spent much money on books for school because I get them for free through Interlibrary Loan. I would also tell a new CSUN student to take advantage of the Creative Media Studio because they are always advancing with new technologies that promote creativity and collaboration amongst the students which can be helpful for future projects!

Photo by Tim Bochen



We Would Like you to Meet: Sam Thacker

Oviatt Library eNews Spotlight on Student Assistants

Tell us about yourself. Who is Sam Thacker?

I'm a Web Assistant III for the Library Systems Group. I'm finishing up my third/junior year as a Computer Science major and Philosophy minor. Also on campus, I am the President of CSUN's Anime Club and an avid reader, and I run my own business doing web development for a wide array of clients (I'm very busy!). I began teaching myself to program when I was seven years old, and am constantly learning new things. Outside of my academic interests, I have also been a professional actor/singer/dancer for much of my life, and continue to train and to perform onscreen and onstage.

How does the Oviatt Library support your creative projects?

Last semester in my Contemporary Literature class, my group was assigned the short story "Optimists" by Richard Ford. Not only was I able to check out the Rock Springs story collection that it was originally published in, I was able to use that book to analytically contrast our assigned story to "Communist," another story in the collection. Having the Oviatt at my disposal allowed me to delve my thematic analysis of the piece into more depth, looking at how Ford told two similar stories so differently. Outside of class, the Library also helps me in my personal research on connecting Computer Science and Philosophy of Mind outside of AI – primarily looking at (i) how, if at all, we can discern and differentiate the internal workings of a computer and the perceptions of the human mind, and (ii) what the impact of the Internet and digital social media is upon our internal mental identities, which I hope to integrate into a future Masters of Computer Science thesis.

What's your favorite place in the Library?

Well, besides my workstation in Library Administration, I have a little spot I always go to on the third floor that's somewhat isolated, which allows me to work in general quiet and focus on what I'm doing without interruption. Plus, it's near a power outlet – and you know access to those can get rare when it's crunch time for exams!

What advice would you give to a new CSUN student about the Oviatt Library's resources?

Call me biased since I work on the Library website, but there are a plethora of easily accessible online resources at your disposal! From LibGuides on practically any topic you can think of – including



Oviatt Library Student Assistant Samuel Thacker

Research Strategies, which is very helpful with a paper from start to finish – to being able to reserve a quiet individual or group study room in the Library. Take some time to explore the Library website and the various options it offers, so you know exactly where to go if you need some quick assistance!



We Would Like you to Meet: Meharaj Khanam Oviatt Library eNews Spotlight on Student Assistants

Tell us about yourself. Who is Meharaj?

I came to CSUN from India in 2016 as an international graduate student and will be completing my Master of Science degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering in May 2018. I am currently working as a Class 3 Supervisor in the Learning Commons Technology Office where I have the pleasure of daily social interactions with patrons, providing technical support and guidance. While here in the United States for the last two years, I have to say the one thing that is such a pleasant surprise is the friendly people and the way they say hello and smile. In my spare time, I enjoy watching dance videos. Oh, and it's no secret that I can't resist those chocolate chip cookies baked daily at the Freudian Sip cafe in the Library. Can you?



Oviatt Library Student Assistant Meharaj Khanam

How does the Oviatt Library support your creative projects?

When I attended DataJam at the Oviatt Library, it inspired me to explore the possibilities for becoming a "Data Scientist." DataJam provided me with a creative spark into the methodology and technology needed to interpret and manipulate data from a large health-related dataset. It was an exciting experience to participate in Innovation Week 2017 at the Oviatt Library. I was able to complete 13 challenges during this competition and was honored to be awarded 3rd place.

What's your favorite place in the Library?

I spend a lot of time in the graduate study rooms and find this space to be the perfect sanctuary considering the technical nature of my studies.

What advice would you give to a new CSUN student about the Oviatt Library's resources?

I would highly encourage students to become familiar with all the resources available in the Library. Many students are unaware that there are laptops, cameras, and iPads for a 7 day rental. I personally love the 3D printers and I have also benefitted greatly from the reserve periodicals to gain free access to course materials.

Photo by Tim Bochen



Thanks & Recognition: Kristin A. Ecklund and Lisle Wenberg

Contributed by Gina Flores

The Oviatt Library is forever grateful to CSUN Emeritus Librarians Kristin A. Ecklund (Kris) and Lisle Wenberg for their lifelong commitment to enriching library access for students with disabilities. In December 2017, Kris established the Lisle Wenberg Library Disability Services Training Endowment as a way to honor deceased Emeritus Librarian and beloved friend, Lisle Wenberg. Known as the “best of the best” by fellow librarians, Lisle was a leader in supporting the research needs of all students regardless of their disability. She was the first



CSUN Emeritus Librarian Kristin A. Ecklund (Kris)

to frequently and routinely assist disabled students with library equipment and coordinate with Disabilities Resources Educational Services (DRES) to better serve students with disabilities.

Lisle worked as a student assistant in the Oviatt Library as a CSUN undergraduate and earned a B.A. in Art in 1964. She later obtained her graduate library degree to accept the vital position of Microform Reference Librarian at her alma mater. Once the Kurzweil reader and other electronic adaptive devices came under her jurisdiction, Lisle trained student assistants to use new technology to efficiently aid other students. She always found a way to help students in the Library overcome obstacles and deliver equitable services and resources. Among student assistants inspired by Lisle was a young man who went on to a 25-year career as a Special Education teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District. He recalls her “special feeling for special needs people” and remembers how she made her area of responsibility “more user friendly to accommodate the needs of those who needed extra attention and assistance.”

Lisle worked passionately at the Oviatt Library from 1977 until shortly before her death in 2001 from breast cancer, which was a great loss to all who had worked with and been touched by her positive influence. She was not only well-loved and absolutely adored by students and staff, but graciously honored through the generosity of Kris Ecklund with the creation of the Lisle Wenberg Library Disability Services Training Endowment. The Endowment will provide revenue to support specialized workshops and trainings for Oviatt librarians and staff on how to serve the unique needs of students with disabilities. Trainings will focus on speakers highly trained in delivering disability services for

libraries with the goal of helping library employees more effectively deliver library literacy information services to students with disabilities.

We are honored and thankful at the Oviatt to receive this distinctive gift to enable specialized support to best serve CSUN students.



Message from the Dean: Creativity - The Secret Sauce of Student Success

Creativity is a crucial part of our lives and our work. It benefits all of us individually and as a society. Very few would argue that creativity has no place on the university campus or almost anywhere else in the world. Indeed, scholarly literature has proven that being exposed to creative outlets and innovation opportunities generates student success. But demonstrating creativity in the real world is sometimes hard work. One of my favorite authors, Jack London, once said that "You can't wait for inspiration. You have to go after it "with a club." That is certainly our students' experience at CSUN. Being innovative takes diligence, persistence, and effort, and these qualities aptly describe many of the students who attend CSUN.



Oviatt Library Dean Mark Stover

The Oviatt Library recognized several years ago that while our core values were similar to our values from 25 years ago, we had evolved over time. The Library had reached the point where we needed to support not just research, scholarship, and teaching on campus, but also the creative activities that faculty and students are engaged in. We made this shift in our values explicit in our mission statement, but also in our strategic plan and implementation. The development of our Creative Media Studio (CMS) and other initiatives came about primarily because of our new mission. Innovation became – and remains – a core part of our strategic framework. As the Oviatt Library makes plans to expand the CMS into a much larger Makerspace, and as we look to the future for partnerships such as with the CSUN Incubator, we continue to be grounded by our enduring values of service, information discovery, access to knowledge, and student engagement. Providing students with opportunities for creative and innovative discoveries is an added component to our mission that ultimately will bring greater levels of student success, in life and in the workplace.

This issue of the Oviatt Library eNews focuses on the theme of the Library as a creative space. David Morck has written an article on how the Oviatt Library's creative spaces support our student success initiative at CSUN. Along the same lines, we've asked three of our students to describe how the library supports their creativity, and I think you will find their answers very interesting. There is even more to read about in this issue of the Oviatt eNews, such as our fundraising drive to process and digitize the archives of the Los Angeles Jewish Community Relations Committee, our integration of the Map Library and the Tom & Ethel Bradley Center into the Oviatt, the upcoming move of the

Teacher Curriculum Center, and our “thanks and recognition” to Kris Ecklund for her recent endowment aimed at Library disabilities training. I hope you will take the time to enjoy each article.

Mark Stover, Ph.D.

Dean, Oviatt Library