



# Polk Library News May 2008 - Issue 41

**New Staff at Polk Library**  
Sarah Neises, [neises@uwosh.edu](mailto:neises@uwosh.edu)



Please join us in welcoming Polk Library's two newest staff members:

The University Archives is pleased to announce the hiring of **Daniel Rylance** as this campus's first records manager. Daniel was previously the University Archivist at the University of North Dakota. He also served in the North Dakota state legislature and served as a local newspaper editor there. He's also worked as a history professor. You may have seen him on *Eye on Oshkosh* as well as other cable access television programs as a political pundit. Dan's thorough understanding of core records management principles and practices makes him a great candidate for this position. Dan will be working 20 hours a week as an LTE. Our funding for this position, courtesy of the Provost's office, will last for two years. In that time, Dan will help bring UW Oshkosh to a sustainable level of statutory records management compliance as well as construct training and informational materials to help offices understand their responsibilities in this area. He will be working with university offices across campus.

The library is happy to offer the position of IS Systems Development Services Senior to **Maccabee Levine**. Maccabee has a B.A. from Brandeis University in computer science and comes to us with over 10 years of professional technology experience. We will be looking to Maccabee to help us enhance our web presence and maximize the effective use of new and existing online resources, services and software applications. Maccabee will contribute to the design and maintenance of the library's website. He is familiar with coding, testing and debugging client-side web-based applications and is comfortable with web development tools such as HTML, CSS, CGI, XML, PHP, Java, XHTML, MySQL and Dreamweaver.

**Information Commons Remodeling**  
Sarah Neises, [neises@uwosh.edu](mailto:neises@uwosh.edu)



Polk Library has a remodeling project in the works. Library staff and campus Facilities Management staff have been working with Lerdahl Business Interiors, Inc. to come up with a plan for a newly remodeled 1st floor South. The area that currently acts as the Reference Room is being remodeled to function as an Information Commons. You can see the impetus for remodeling the room in this past newsletter article "[What Do Students Think of the Reference Room?](#)" We will be trying to make a more productive space for group study, while also carving out a space for quiet study. We want to provide some bigger computer workstation furniture and monitors to facilitate group work. We want to add soft seating areas for the comfort of people using the room. We would like to modernize the space to make an attractive place for students to convene on campus. Ideally, we would like the space to be remodeled in time for the start of the fall semester. A lot of work will have to happen between now and then! We will have to relocate all of the materials in the room to other spots in the library so new carpet and shelving can be installed. We will need to have all of the new technology and wiring installed. Please excuse the mess while we make a better space for students to collaborate with their peers.

---

**A Head Above the Crowd**  
Roberta Stuemke, [stuemke@uwosh.edu](mailto:stuemke@uwosh.edu)

The Today Show cameras focus on an ordinary-appearing man, normal in every way ... EXCEPT he's standing next to a woman who is so much taller that you can't even see her shoulders, until the camera draws back, showing that the man is actually shorter than the female host of the show, and the young woman is a few inches taller than the male host. And that, of course, is the purpose of the camera angles, to draw the viewers' attention to the difference in height between these two guests, leading to a discussion of the way height influences peoples' lives.

As it turns out, the tall young woman is UW Oshkosh student Rebecca Thomas, a 6'4" journalism student. On Tuesday, 3/25/08, Becky's well-written essay on [Life as a Tall Girl](#) was posted to the New York Times Online edition, attracting a great deal of attention and reader response. Because of this, Becky found herself fielding interview requests from both Today and the NPR's [Talk of the Nation](#) show, not to mention the Oshkosh Northwestern. Set to graduate from UWO in December, 2008, Becky's 'fifteen minutes of fame' – and then some, considering that the Northwestern just printed her own follow-up editorial on Sunday, 4/20/08 – will hopefully give her a good push in the right direction when she embarks upon her journalism career, hoping for a writing job in a larger city.

Polk Library, however, has known Becky since 2005, when she started here as a student employee. For her first semester, she worked in Archives. Then, starting in spring of 2006, she joined the student staff in Circulation and Stacks Management, where she has worked ever since. Among her reasons for staying with this job throughout her college career are the ability to have a flexible schedule, liking the people she works with, and, as time goes on, the simple fact that she knows the job. All of us who work with her are more than willing to testify to this last fact: Becky does indeed know her job, and she does it quite well.

Given the quality of her work here for the past three years, none of us were really surprised to learn that one of her journalism class assignments had merited this kind of response, although we were of course extremely pleased and excited. We've all been cheering her on and very much enjoying her tales of adventure: the 400+ online comments about the essay, being flown to New York with her mother to appear on national television, meeting some recognized authorities in her chosen field (and also meeting Keanu Reeves along the way), and being interviewed for a national radio program. Through it all, she has continued to handle her library responsibilities, her class work, and her activities on the track team.

All of us here in Access Services are very proud of Becky's achievements, and we know she will continue to be an outstanding example of Polk Library's student employees, and of UW Oshkosh's student body as a whole.

---

**New State Agency for Accountability**  
Mike Watkins, [watkins@uwosh.edu](mailto:watkins@uwosh.edu)



A new state agency called the "Wisconsin Government Accountability Board" has been created. The agency, which combines the operations of two existing state divisions -- "The State Elections Division" and the "Ethics and Accountability Divisions" -- provides online information to the public on campaign financing for state and municipal elections, information on lobbying activity, financial interests of state officials, and information on distribution of state contracts. The new agency's web site (which is under construction) can be found at <http://gab.wi.gov/>. The site links to the current web pages for the Elections Division at <http://elections.state.wi.us/> and the Ethics Division at <http://ethics.state.wi.us/>.

Both of the new board's subdivisions provide detailed information on the reporting requirements by state law for campaign finance, lobbying, financial interests of state officials, and state "contract sunshine" information. In addition, the site has online databases of information submitted in all of these areas.

The Election Division page has links to the campaign contributions for previous elections. Candidates are not mandated to file electronically unless their campaign contributions are at least \$20,000. This requirement does not preclude those having less than this total from filing electronically. The actual "electronic finance reports" from previous elections can be found on a search page at <http://elections.state.wi.us/financereport.asp>.

The Ethics Division website has links to some very interesting reports in the area of lobbying, financial interests of state officials, and information on state contracts. For example, the [lobbying](#) section of the site has an online directory to all of the registered lobbyists in the state. In addition, it has a search engine that allows the user to search for specific legislative bills and lists the lobbyists who have an interest in the outcome of the pending legislation.

The Ethics Division website also features a [financial reporting lookup page](#) that allows you to look up a specific business or corporation and find out which state officials (those mandated to report) have a financial interest in a specific corporation. This can be found from the Ethics Division page by clicking on the "Financial Relationships" icon, then clicking on the link under *Financial Relationships: Search by financial relationships: **Names of businesses or organizations***. The result of a search using this link is a list of all state officials who have indicated as a reporting requirement that they have a financial interest in the business or organization being searched. There is little detail provided, but citizens can request a copy of more detailed financial information by filling out a form with the specific public official listed and sending a dollar for each official for which information is being requested. The requests are not anonymous, as the official for which information is released is notified as to who is seeking information regarding their individual financial interests.

The Government Accountability Board website has important and interesting information that would be useful to government officials, academic scholars, and political aficionados. The information provided is essential for open government. It will be interesting to see the future development of the website and whether open access to this information will continue.



**Polk Library's Fourth Annual Book Sale**  
Ron Hardy, [hardyr@uwosh.edu](mailto:hardyr@uwosh.edu)

Polk Library's fourth annual book sale, held April 15th and 16th, was another success!

We sold 3,171 books and raised \$1,145 dollars that will be used in the future to buy library resources for student use. We had a higher turnout this year due to better promotion, and many of our visitors were from the community or other parts of the state. Held during National Library Week each year, our book sales are intended to help foster an appreciation of books and libraries.

Books and other materials sold at Polk Library book sales consist of a mix of donated books and withdrawn library materials. Rather than having these books wind up in landfills or pulped for paper, we instead make every attempt to get them into the hands of people who want them.

---

**Interlibrary Loan Wins Award**  
Lin Schrottky, [schrottk@uwosh.edu](mailto:schrottk@uwosh.edu)

On March 13, 2008, Polk Library was recognized by the Fox Valley Workforce Development Board Inc. for the interlibrary loan department's efforts in helping area youth achieve their career goals and educational objectives by offering valuable work experience opportunities. In the past several years, the interlibrary loan department mentored four Youth at Risk students enrolled in the Youth Employment Service during the summer. The first was a new mother who has since gone on to graduate from high school and is attending UW-Fox Valley, majoring in criminal justice. The second student, a hearing-impaired Hmong girl, worked in interlibrary loan for 2 summers. She graduated, married, and is looking for a job in a public library. The third was a boy who had Asperger syndrome. He had never had a job before, but he did so well that he also worked in interlibrary loan for 2 summers. He graduated from high school and is attending a tech school studying computers. The next boy also had Asperger syndrome and Polk Library was his first job. After a "mom inspection" to quell his mother's nervousness, he worked in the interlibrary loan department scanning article requests and sending to libraries all over the United States and some to foreign countries.



**Get in Shape with Books in the Browsing Room**  
Leah Bruckner - Student Coordinator, Browsing Room

Summer is almost here, and the Browsing Room has plenty of new titles to help you gain knowledge about staying fit, healthy eating, and looking great for the upcoming summer months. Below are just a few new books recently added to the Browsing Room.

- [The Food You Crave: Luscious Recipes for a Healthy Life](#), by Ellie Krieger
- [The Spectrum: How to Customize a Way of Eating and Living Just Right for You and Your Family](#), by Dean Ornish
- [You Staying Young: The Owner's Manual for Extending Your Warranty](#), by Michael Roizen and Mehmet Oz
- [Eat This, Not That: Thousands of Simple Food Swaps that Can Save You 10, 20, 30 Pounds -- Or More!](#), by David Zinczenko
- [Making the Cut: The 30-Day Diet and Fitness Plan for the Strongest, Sexiest You](#), by Jillian Michaels

Enjoy the read!

**Last Week of Classes and Spring Interim Hours**  
Jeanne Foley, [foley@uwosh.edu](mailto:foley@uwosh.edu)



The first floor of Polk Library will be open 24 hours during the last week of classes, starting Sunday, May 11th at 11 am and ending Friday, May 16th at 6 pm. We will again be brewing free coffee each night that week from 10 pm to 7 am. Stop by for a late-night studying pick-me-up, and save landfill space by bringing your own covered coffee mug.

**Spring Interim Hours, May 17 - June 6, 2008**

Polk Library will be closed on Saturday and Sunday, May 17 - 18, 2008.

Polk Library will also be closed Sunday, May 25 and Monday, May 26 (Memorial Day), 2008.

***Building Hours***

Monday - Thursday . . . 7:30 AM - 7:00 PM  
Friday . . . . . 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM  
Saturday . . . . . Noon - 4:00 PM  
Sunday . . . . . Noon - 7:00 PM

***Reference Service***

Monday - Friday . . . . . 7:45 AM - 4:30 PM  
Saturday & Sunday . . . Noon - 4:00 PM

***Wisconsin Area Research Center and University Archives***

Monday - Friday . . . . . 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon  
. . . . . 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Saturday - Sunday . . . . . CLOSED

**Spotlight on Reference**  
Renee Buker, [bukerr@uwosh.edu](mailto:bukerr@uwosh.edu)



***Hidden Depths: Atlas of the Oceans***  
Ref. GC 6 .H6 2007

*Hidden Depths*, collaboratively compiled by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Smithsonian Institution, is a highly illustrated reference book that sheds light on a variety of aspects of the world's oceans. Living up to its name as an atlas, the volume includes numerous maps of the oceans, indicating ocean depths, plate boundaries, ocean currents, pollution caused by international shipping, and much more. Chapters within the book also provide summaries of other topics dealing with the ocean, including hurricanes, typhoons, and other effects of the ocean on weather; human impacts on the Arctic and Antarctic sea ice and polar life; major historical events in oceanic exploration and current exploration technology; and uses of oceans for commerce, fishing, energy, telecommunication lines, and minerals.

---

**Staff Highlights**

- **Joshua Ranger**, Archivist, was recently [interviewed by a local television news station](#) for a segment on [Oshkosh in Motion](#), a silent film by Carl Laemmle shot in 1912 in much of the same downtown area that recently saw director Michael Mann and actor Johnny Depp filming scenes for the upcoming movie *Public Enemies*.
- **Renée Büker**, Outreach Services Librarian, and **Deb Duncan**, Technical Services Librarian, served on the conference planning committee for the 2008 Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians conference, held April 15-18 in Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Two staff members also presented at the conference - **Pat Wilkinson**, Library Director, was part of a panel discussion entitled "Just Where Are We? Academic Librarianship in Wisconsin"; and **Marisa Finkey**, Library Instruction Coordinator, presented a poster on "Developing a Research Skills Course".

**Polk Library News** is a publication of [Forrest R. Polk Library, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh](#).  
800 Algoma Blvd. Oshkosh, WI 54901

Renée Büker, Editor, [bukerr@uwosh.edu](mailto:bukerr@uwosh.edu) 920-424-7331  
Patrick Wilkinson, Library Director, [wilkinso@uwosh.edu](mailto:wilkinso@uwosh.edu) 920-424-2147