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## Giving Highlights

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### ► Librarian leaves \$500,000 legacy

Marilyn Nicely, head of technical services and American Indian law subject specialist librarian at the College of Law, will be honored at the end of the spring semester as the college says thank you for her 39 years of service. Her retirement will be a momentous occasion not just for the impact she has had on the library, but for the legacy she will leave. Nicely will make a \$500,000 bequest establishing a permanent endowment to provide scholarships for minority students and financial support for the Donald E. Pray Law Library.



Marilyn Nicely, whose gift to the College of Law was announced at the Order of the Owl Dinner, stands with Joe Harroz and Andy Coats, two of the deans with whom she worked during her 39 years of employment in the law library.

Growing up near Dayton, Ohio, Nicely had a passion for learning the Spanish language, and graduated in 1967 with a bachelor's degree in Spanish from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. She received a master's degree in English in 1973 from Arizona State University and a master's degree from the University of Oklahoma School of Library Science in 1974. Nicely joined the law library staff in 1976, shortly after the library was relocated from Monnet Hall to the Law Center.

"Not many people stay in the same organization for their entire career. After flirting with the idea of retirement from the law library in 2004, I had a change of heart which led

me to postpone this event until 2015," said Nicely. "When I did make this decision to retire, I was surprised how my retirement assets had accumulated, and saw that they would likely exceed my lifetime needs. So I decided I wanted to make use of them as a bequest to the College of Law and the law library.

"I have been privileged to associate with many dedicated professors, students and lawyers," stated Nicely. "I am personally very committed to advocating for social justice. Providing access to education for minority students is very important and adds great value to the legal profession."

Nicely believes increased access to a legal education will help produce high-quality professionals better able to assist underserved and under-represented populations. She also believes improving the cultural representation within the student body will empower College of Law graduates to act as more informed politicians and public servants regarding the rights and needs of all citizens.

Nicely knows library resources provide fundamental support to legal education and the practice of law. "This gift is an opportunity for me to support library programs, which benefit all students, the university community and the public," she said.

Nicely became interested in Native American law early in her career. In 1996, the OU law library partnered with the Native American Rights Fund National Indian Law Library in Boulder, Colorado, in an effort to digitize a small collection of Native American constitutions. These and other Native American materials can be found on the Native American Constitutions and Law Digitization Project web page.

In 2012, Nicely organized a project to digitize primary Congressional materials consisting of thousands of legislative reports and documents, presidential addresses and executive agency reports pertaining to American Indians. Through her efforts, these historic documents will one day be freely available on the Internet. Nicely will continue working on this project as a volunteer after her retirement. She believes these documents will have great importance to tribes, legal historians and the public, and sees them as her personal lifework.

# Let's start a conversation...

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## ► Spector, Thompson gift honors Oxford Summer Program icon



Dean Joe Harroz stands with Carolyn Thompson and Professor Emeritus Robert Spector following the announcement of the gift establishing the Sir David Yardley Memorial Scholarship.

Professor Emeritus Robert G. Spector and his wife, Carolyn Thompson, established a scholarship to honor longtime Oxford Summer Program faculty member Sir David Yardley, who died in summer 2014. The announcement of the Sir David Yardley Memorial Scholarship was made January 20 during an Oxford Pub Night event in Amicus Café.

In a message announcing Yardley's death to OU Law faculty and staff, Spector, who was director of the Oxford Summer Program from 1998 until 2011, said Yardley was one of the original faculty members of the program. Yardley taught courses in the English Legal System and English Legal History from 1975 until his retirement in 2011.

"However, he never left the program and continued to give generously of his time," said Spector. "He would deliver two lectures a summer and, more importantly, he would come to Brasenose to spend time with the students." Many students, Spector recalled, said meeting Yardley was the highlight of their summer.

The annual scholarship will be awarded to an OU Law student attending the Oxford Summer Program and taking a course pertaining to the English legal system.



Prior to the announcement of the new scholarship honoring Sir David Yardley, Professor Lindsay Robertson and students prepare to experience traditional pub food served at Oxford Pub Night.

## ► Stoops previews football season at alumni event



Coach Bob Stoops watches the reactions of Bill Lance, Homer Paul ('59) and Lee West ('56) to Dean Joe Harroz's welcoming remarks at the Annual Giving Society Reception held August 4 in Headington Hall. Stoops gave a sneak preview of the 2014 Sooner football season for OU Law alumni and friends in attendance.

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### ► Berry cuts ribbon at conference room dedication ceremony



With family, friends and colleagues in attendance, Howard K. Berry Jr. ('58) officially opens OU Law's new collaborative conference room which bears his name. The 12-seat interactive conference room, made possible through Berry's \$100,000 gift, is used for multiple purposes by students, faculty and staff. Assisting Berry (second from right) with the ribbon-cutting are (left to right) Jack Edward Berry, Howard K. Berry III, Penny Berry, Suzanna Berry and Dean Joe Harroz.