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**OU Women’s Basketball “Dean’s Challenge” prize to fund OU Libraries’ Undergraduate Research Award**

NORMAN – In recognition of their support of the University of Oklahoma women’s basketball program, the University of Oklahoma Libraries was presented with a \$1,000 award. The award money will help fund the University Libraries’ annual Undergraduate Research Award.

Earlier this year, OU women's basketball coach Sherri Coale invited each college at the university to attend a game together as a group as part of an inaugural “Dean’s Challenge” program to see which college could gain the largest attendance, with the winning college to receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Coach Coale’s “Dean’s Challenge” encourages colleges and departments to come together to support student-athletes

“It was important for us to connect with the student body on campus,” said Coale. “For our players, it is the ultimate compliment to have their peers watching them compete and cheering for them. We wanted then to return that favor and give something back. We are honored to be able to give this scholarship to the college.”



OU Libraries was recognized for the highest percentage of affiliated attendance, along with the College of Education, which was recognized for the highest number of people in attendance at an OU women’s basketball game during the 2015-2016 season.

The College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences also received a \$500 award for being in the top three colleges or departments for having both the most people in attendance and the highest percentage of their college in attendance.

“A lot of what you see during the game, the athletes’ energy, passion and perseverance and the drive to be successful, translates well to being a successful student,” said Rick Luce, dean of University Libraries. “The ‘Dean’s Challenge’ provided a great opportunity for our students and staff to come together to support the OU women’s basketball program, and in turn strengthen the OU community – and it was a lot of fun.”

The University Libraries’ Undergraduate Research Award began this year as a way to recognize students who have demonstrated creative use of the OU libraries’ resources and collections in exemplary research or innovative scholarship.

In its inaugural year, 16 students from a variety of disciplines, including business, engineering, history, history of science, and meteorology, submitted their works for consideration, three of which were selected and will be showcased in the [SHAREOK](#) open access repository later this summer.

The University of Oklahoma Libraries is headquartered in Bizzell Memorial Library, located in the center of the Norman campus, east of the iconic clock tower. University Libraries comprises five locations and numerous special collections. University Libraries represents the collective knowledge of the university and provides research and study assistance to facilitate knowledge creation.

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Image Credit: OU women’s basketball coach Sherri Coale gives University Libraries dean Rick Luce an autographed basketball in recognition of OU Libraries’ participation in the “Dean’s Challenge” contest.