



News

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Al Harris Library Plans Open House for the General Thomas P. Stafford Archives



General Thomas P. Stafford was recently at the new Stafford Archives in the Al Harris Library at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

The Al Harris Library will host an open house of the General Thomas P. Stafford Archives from 2-4 p.m. on Friday, April 15 on the Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) Weatherford campus.

The archive is located on the second floor of the library, and the event is open to the public.

The open house will introduce guests to the new facility that showcases the papers, documents and accomplishments of retired Astronaut General Thomas P. Stafford. The collection features documents representing his many firsts and record-setting achievements in space exploration, from the early 1960s through the mid-1970s. The collection includes a wide variety of documents generated during Stafford's work at NASA and showing his leadership in and contributions to space exploration and aerospace engineering. Other items are official photographs, national and international publications featuring Stafford, and correspondence with both world dignitaries and average citizens from around the world.

The new archive facility, completed in 2021, was constructed as part of a two-year renovation of the second floor of the library.

"As director, it is my responsibility to envision new spaces and services for the library, and I anticipate this archive will create many new opportunities for the university in the years to come," said Al Harris Library Director Jason Dupree. "I'm excited to introduce this facility to the university and area communities."

Dupree invites area residents to see items from the collection currently on display, which includes NASA documents related to Stafford, photograph albums, newspaper scrapbooks, and other one-of-a-kind artifacts. Guests will be introduced to the digitization technology used to scan documents and books for adding content to the university's institutional repository, [SWOSU Digital Commons](#), and walkthrough the climate-controlled vault where the archival items are stored. Library staff will be on hand to welcome attendees, answer questions, and discuss the facility and its contents.

Al Harris Library

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