

CARCERAL STUDIES CONSORTIUM

NEWSLETTER

October 25, 2024

Welcome to the [University of Oklahoma Carceral Studies Consortium](#) Newsletter. The Carceral Studies Consortium strives to build a community for intellectual exploration that includes faculty, staff, graduate students, community members, practitioners, and organizers.

Carceral Studies is concerned with the independent function and nexus of the political and social systems that organize, shape, sustain, and entrench practices of punishment, surveillance, incarceration, and harm.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Oklahoma Prison Writers & Artists Foundation

Established in 2021, with the support of a microgrant from the Carceral Studies foundation, OPWAF's mission is to work with incarcerated writers and artists across the state of Oklahoma. They visit prisons and organize workshops in collaboration with new and existing writing groups, and provide material support (from writing supplies to communication by mail/e-messaging to publication opportunities).

Over the last year, the nonprofit has seen significant growth. In the fall and winter of 2023, the three founding members of OPWAF (**Catherine Mintler, Nick LoLordo, and Timothy Bradford**) piloted a ten-week workshop curriculum created by PEN America's Prison and Justice Writing division in collaboration with the original Writers Guild at Joseph Harp Correctional Center, (Bradford has since stepped down from daily work, but remains active on the board.) Work from these sessions is currently under consideration for PEN America's yearly Prison Writing Awards anthology. In 2024 OPWAF has worked to establish a presence in other facilities across the state. A branch of the Guild has been started at Great Plains Correctional Center (a private facility recently taken over by the state), and a new initiative at Lexington Correctional Center is scheduled to begin in November of this year. They have also begun exploring possibilities for an internship project in collaboration with Sociology faculty here at OU! Finally, they have established a small imprint, OPWAF Editions, to publish through KDP. Their debut volume, a single-authored collection from the pen of Dilemma, entitled *MarvelUs*, was published in June, and a second anthology of work from the Writer's Guild, *Sidewalk Discussions*, will appear before the year's end.

Info on both books, and more, can be found at their site [HERE!](#)