

TOBACCO CENTER MARKS 25 YEARS

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The UA Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society, housed within the College of Community Health Sciences, celebrated its quarter-century anniversary in 2024.

The Center holds the largest collection at any university of original documents, artifacts, photographs and news coverage of anti-smoking activism, cigarette marketing and the tobacco industry from the 19th Century to the present. Its purpose is to educate the public and health professionals about the historical and contemporary aspects of tobacco use, highlight tobacco's devastating health impacts, and expose industry tactics designed to thwart efforts to reduce smoking.

The Center was founded and is directed by Dr. Alan Blum, the College's Gerald Leon Wallace, MD, Endowed Chair in Family Medicine.

The Center's work is presented through online exhibitions, oral histories and presentations at museums and libraries across the country.

The work has earned praise from the World Health Organization and has received national awards from the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians and the American School Health Association.

Blum said the model developed by the Center can be used to address other emerging health issues, such as obesity, digital media addiction and vaccination refusal.

