

APRIL 2024

VOLUME #4

NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



UL DIRECT MESSAGE

Whew - this spring has been exceptionally busy in the library and across campus! From our MakerSpace hosting Crafting Corners to the launch of a new Evidence Synthesis Service, the Library has made significant progress toward our goals as we continue to work to better support our community.

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Just weeks ago, we welcomed American University's 16th President Johnathan Alger to campus. I enjoyed being able to meet him and hear him speak. I personally emailed him the week his appointment was announced and welcomed him on behalf of the library - he responded within minutes expressing his enthusiasm to work with us all! As we look toward graduation and summer, I am glad we'll all be able to take a deep breath and recoup our energy.

INTERNAL UPDATES

The Library-Wide Meeting took place on April 3rd, and began with a presentation from Nkenge Friday, VP of Inclusive Excellence, and Amanda Taylor, Assistant VP for Inclusive Excellence. Each department then delivered their updates for the Spring and upcoming projects. Thank you to everyone who attended, and the PowerPoint slides from the meeting can be found in the University Library Teams Channel.

DAA launched four intradepartmental working groups this month, each focusing on a different cornerstone for the department: Collaboration, Communication, Customer Service & Student Management. These working groups will review current practices and suggested area for improvement, and then deliver updates to policies and workflows to improve efficiency and coordination across teams.

On March 1st, Rachel Borchardt, Katie Hut, Clarissa Ihssen & Olivia Ivey presented at Catholic University's annual *Bridging the Spectrum* conference. Their research, "Librarians as OER Content Creators: An Evaluation of Research Guides" explores current use - or lack thereof - of Creative Commons licensing on LibGuides. The presentation explored the current state of licensing of LibGuides, and made the case for librarians expanding how they see themselves as producers of sharable knowledge in the Open Educational Resources movement. More information on the conference program, including a link to the presentation can be found [here](#).

RECENT EVENTS

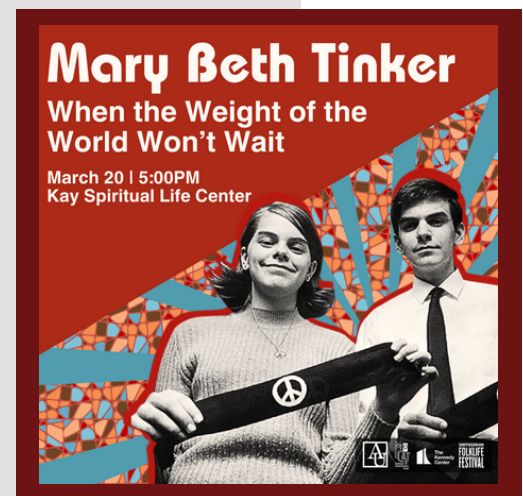
Crafting Corners Series



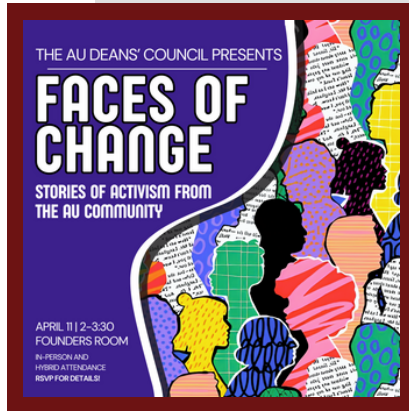
This semester we launched Crafting Corners, a series of programs intended to highlight the Library MakerSpace resources and connect students with Library employees in a fun and stress-free environment. The final edition of the series took place on March 19th, hosted by graduate librarian Sarah Gilchrist, and had students recycling old books into paper crafts in honor of World Recycling Day.

“Mary Beth Tinker: When the Weight of the World Won’t Wait”

As part of the collaboration with the Anthropology Department and Bethesda Chevy Chase High School, the Library hosted a fireside chat with Mary Beth Tinker on March 20th. The event saw over 70 attendees at Kay Spiritual Life Center, with a panel conversation between Tinker and several students discussing questions related to adolescence and the burden society places on young people.



RECENT EVENTS



Faces of Change: Stories of Activism from the AU Community

On April 11th, the American University Deans' Council presented Faces of Change, an exploration of student and lifelong activism and the forms and functions of social movements in universities that are effective in producing sustained social change. This panel comprised of AU Alumni who are making changes in the world discussed how students can use multiple forms of the social change ecosystem, acting as “weavers,” “visionaries,” “builders,” “storytellers,” “healers,” “disrupters” and more to make a difference in their communities and society at large as a result of their college experience.

Librarians & Lemonade

On April 16th, the Library hosted a lemonade stand on the Quad, staffed with a number of librarians as they conversed with students and further developed the Library’s connections with the student population. It was a wonderful community building experience and students were excited to interact with the Library staff and faculty.



AU&Beyond: Experiential Learning Expo

AU & Beyond: An Experiential Learning Expo is an annual conference, held on April 17th this year, that celebrates all the incredible work American University students do on campus and in the community. The event highlighted research, international engagement, service, course-based, and career building opportunities that students at all levels and across all departments are leveraging to enhance their learning at AU. Attendees celebrated and learned with the panelists while discovering new paths for themselves.

UPCOMING EVENTS

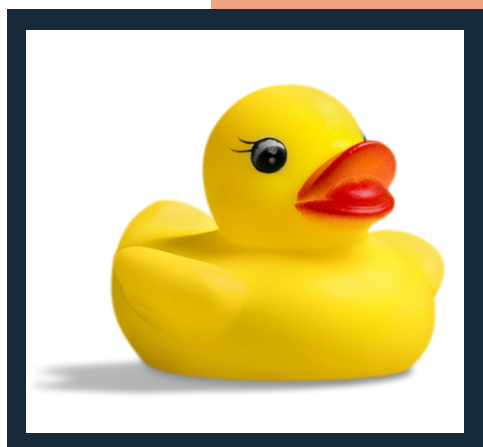
Library Research Awards

American University's Library seeks to promote and honor student research papers that reflect the best of the best among the thousands of papers submitted each year. Winners will be selected by teaching and library faculty and honored during a ceremony on April 30th.

All award winners, (code: congratulations) along with their friends and family, will be invited to join American University faculty and administrators on Bender Library's 3rd floor to present their research and receive their awards at the ceremony. Food and drinks will be provided. The event will be hybrid to accommodate friends and family outside of the DMV. Award winners will be contacted about the ceremony after the winners have been determined.



Stress ReDUCkTion



It's that time of year again! Continuing the Library's finals tradition, rubber ducks will soon be hidden across the different floors of the building. Students who find these ducks can bring them to the Circulation Desk in exchange for a "stress reduction" gift bag to help them get through their vigorous studying.

STAFF & FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

WHAT HAVE YOUR
COLLEAGUES BEEN UP TO?



Kathryn Ray, Research Assistance Librarian and competitive rower, recently participated in ErgSprints which is the largest indoor rowing event in the U.S. Out of 1,000 participants of varying ages, Kathryn placing 1st in her age and weight category in the 500 meter sprint and 2nd in the 2K event. After results were fully calculated, she was awarded 1st in the nation in the 500 meter event, and 3rd in the 2K event.

Kathryn was also interviewed by WTOP radio which can be found [here](#).



Hannah Park participated as co-chair for the 2023 Asian Pacific American Award for Literature in Picture Books, awarded annually by the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA). This award strives to acknowledge the valuable contributions that underrepresented authors and illustrators can make to children's literature. More information related to the award can be found [here](#).



SOC's *Media in the Mix* podcast, produced and hosted by the School of Communication, invited Shilpa Das Gupta to participate as a guest speaker. Shilpa's own podcast, *Ohh Folk!*, transports listeners through the power of folktales, weaving together threads of culture and history. Stream Shilpa's episode of *Media in the Mix* [here](#), and tune in to her personal podcast [here](#).

FACULTY AWARDS

Join the Library in congratulating the 2024 University Faculty Award recipients. The individuals listed below have contributed immeasurably to the AU community, to their disciplines, and to the lives of their students and colleagues. They have demonstrated excellence in their work, and carry that excellence into their contributions to the Library.



RACHEL BORCHARDT

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

*Outstanding Service to the
University Community*



RAYCHELLE BURKS

CHEMISTRY, COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Morton Bender Prize



NOEMÍ ENCHAUTEGUI-DE-JESÚS

PSYCHOLOGY, COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

*Faculty Award for
Inclusive Excellence*

STUDENT STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Read below about what some of our student staff have been up to this year.



Mikayla Bradley:

Once Mikayla Bradley, Circ & Reserves student, completes her Masters in strategic communications in May, she's headed to the Disney College Program in Florida. Mikayla, a lifelong Disney fan, says the customer service and teamwork skills she learned at the Circulation Desk have prepared her for this new adventure bringing magic to visitors at the Disney parks.

Emily Walsh:

The Media Services blog recently added Google Analytics to their site and made a surprising discovery: former student assistant Emily Walsh's October 2020 article, "The Evolution of Horror Films: A Look a Horror Movies from the 19th to 21st Century" is still making waves on Google. The blog post discusses the history & development of horror movies since the beginning of film, and its catchy title keeps it at the top of search results for "the history of horror movies", driving significant traffic to the blog. To read the original article, click [here](#).

STAFF CHANGES

We give a warm welcome to our new employees, and congratulation to those who have received promotions or expanded their roles!

Laura Bell,
Associate Archivist

Jessica Hunter,
AV Technician - Daytime

Jack Anthony,
Senior AV Technician

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



LIBRARY JOB OPENINGS

The Library is actively recruiting and hiring for staff and faculty positions.

ACADEMIC TECH

- Lead Event & Maintenance AV Tech
- AV Tech Evenings

TECHNICAL SERVICES

- Resource Description & Processing Manager

DISCOVERY, ACCESS, & ASSESSMENT

- Library Accessibility Support Coordinator

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Photographic Archive of Robert Nickelsburg

This [photojournalism archive](#) has nearly doubled as Bob Nickelsburg closes out his Latin American images. Archives uploaded images from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, St. Kitts, and Union Island this past spring. So far

Bob's archive represents his work in Latin America from the late 1978s-the 2010s, predominately the 1980s. His work includes stunning portraits, images of war, political figures, religious life, daily life, and work in this area of the world.

Next, Bob will work on his Asian coverage. [Click each photo to learn more.](#)

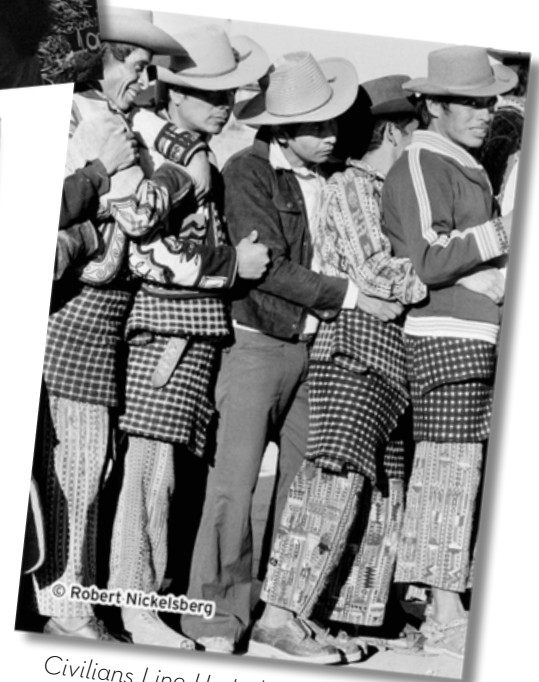
Serra Pelada Gold Mine in Brazil's
Para State



Food Market in
Buenos Aires,
Argentina



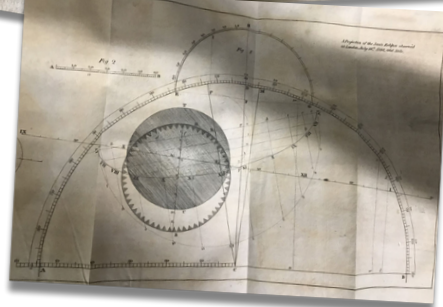
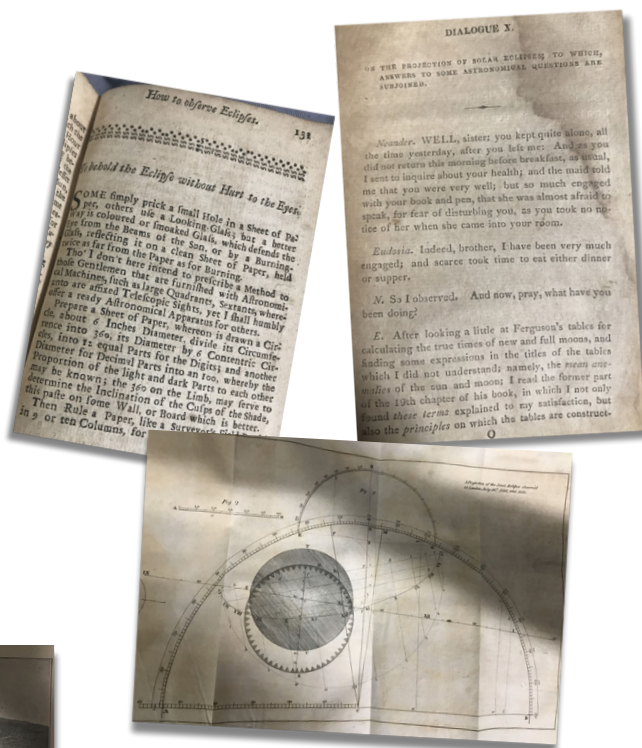
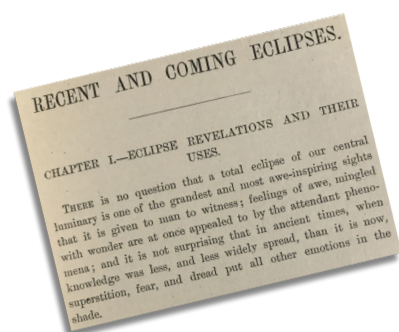
Leftist Graffiti at University of San Carlos
in Guatemala City



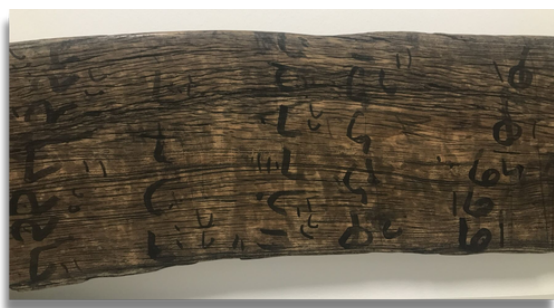
Civilians Line Up to Vote in National
Elections in Sololá, Guatemala

Total Solar Eclipse of the Heart

As Bonnie Tyler's 1983 power ballad Total Eclipse of the Heart made a comeback due to the solar eclipse this month, let's try to bring back some of these classics from our rare book collection. Eclipses have long been documented, and, today, they offer historians the opportunity to precisely date past events due to the predictability of eclipses. Some of our ancestors interpreted eclipses as omens, and early astronomers figured out the equations to predict future eclipses.



Citizen Detectives are on the Case!



Gumshoes Carol Ido and Amy Robertson responded to the case of the mysterious artifact. Carol suspects [Arabic](#) letters or perhaps [Arabic musical notations](#). Amy tapped into the collective power of catalogers who had theories from a [tally stick](#) to [Brahmi script](#) including numbers and letters to [Lontara script](#) (or Bugis script or related Indonesian Sulawesi script). This case is still open...