



SUNYLA NEWS

OCTOBER 2026 | VOLUME 55 ISSUE 3

SUNYLA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – CARRIE FISHNER

Hello SUNYLA!

Thank you for once again trusting me to serve as President of the organization. It has been almost ten years (!!!) since my first time in this role, and as I was reflecting back, I want to talk a little about how much the organization has meant to me in my development professionally.



Carrie Fishner

I am sure you have heard many of us say this at the Council meetings, or at annual conference—but this organization really is my favorite. Librarianship is my second career. I did come from the dark side of Student Affairs, but being able to immediately connect with so many peers in the same profession made the move not as scary. SUNYLA provided me with my first opportunities to present at professional library conferences, it gave me my first opportunities to join committees (yay conference planning!) even before I was officially employed on a campus, and it has provided me with some of the most amazing mentors I could ask for.

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As I spoke about in our September meeting, now more than ever, we need these connections. There are challenges facing libraries of all types that cause an amount of stress and anxiety that many of us face with little support on our own campuses. Having this organization of peers who can understand the difficulties facing our profession, who can listen and provide support, is more valuable than ever. Join the listserv, attend the virtual talk,

and please don't hesitate to reach out if you have a suggestion or idea on how SUNYLA can provide more support to your or our colleagues across the SUNY Libraries.

I look forward to working with you all this year—and seeing everyone in person at SUNY Albany for our annual conference June 16-18th, 2027.

IDEA COMMITTEE UPDATES

Milo Cameron, Mohawk Valley

The IDEA committee invites you to join our Insights Book Club for the fall semester. We are reading *Read This When Things Fall Apart*, edited by **Kelly Hayes**. The meetings are on the first Thursday of the month at 12:00 p.m., and you need not be able to make every meeting in order to participate. If you are interested, please fill out [this form](#) to receive the zoom link. We will be continuing the book club in future semesters, so please email **Milo Cameron** (that's me) if you have a book you think we should add to the TBR list!



Milo Cameron

This year the IDEA committee is hoping to host several workshops. No dates have been set yet, but our current list of potential topics includes:

- Management and neurodiversity
- Disability accommodations (with a disabled volunteer guest speaker)
- Sustainability and teaching about climate change
- Supporting students with autism in the library

If you have a workshop topic you'd like to see added to the list, or if you have someone who might be a good fit to facilitate a workshop, please reach out! Otherwise, keep an eye out for future announcements about workshop topics and dates.

SUNYLA INFORMATION LITERACY COMMITTEE UPDATES

Holly Kuhl, Cayuga



Holly Kuhl

SILC had a busy year and shared much of its work at the SUNYLA conference at Brockport in June. In case you missed it, here are a few highlights.

Information Literacy Portal

SILC's [Information Literacy Portal](#) on SOAR gathers openly licensed lesson plans, activities, and assessments from SUNY colleagues. To contribute, contact

Jocelyn Ireland or **Nicole Westerdahl**.

Micro-Courses: Suite 1 Complete, Work Begins on Suite 2

The Micro Courses Task Force has finalized Suite 1, an introductory set of information literacy micro courses for first-year students. Suite 2, on AI basics, is now underway. Access details will come via the SUNYLA listserv and questions can go to **Holly Kuhl**.

AI Literacy Pressbook

SUNYLA SILC: Advancing AI Literacy, by **Ken Fujiuchi** and **Lauren deLaubell**, collects SILC's AI literacy frameworks and student learning outcomes. It's a useful resource for librarians and for faculty teaching courses that carry the SUNY Gen Ed Information Literacy competency.

Community Conversations

Jocelyn Ireland led SILC's first Community Conversation of the year, on the revised ACRL Framework. Another conversation is planned for October, so watch the SUNYLA listserv and the SILC blog for details.

Save the Date: Instruction Showcase

SILC's Instruction Showcase returns in January 2027. Planning is just getting started, so if you'd like to present, start brainstorming a lesson or activity to share.

Congratulations

Winners of the SUNYLA Excellence in Scholarship Award 2026

Carli Spina, Fashion Institute of Technology

and

Rebecca Albrecht Oling, Purchase College

for co-authoring the monograph

The Digital Accessibility Handbook for Libraries

2026 EiS Award Committee Members

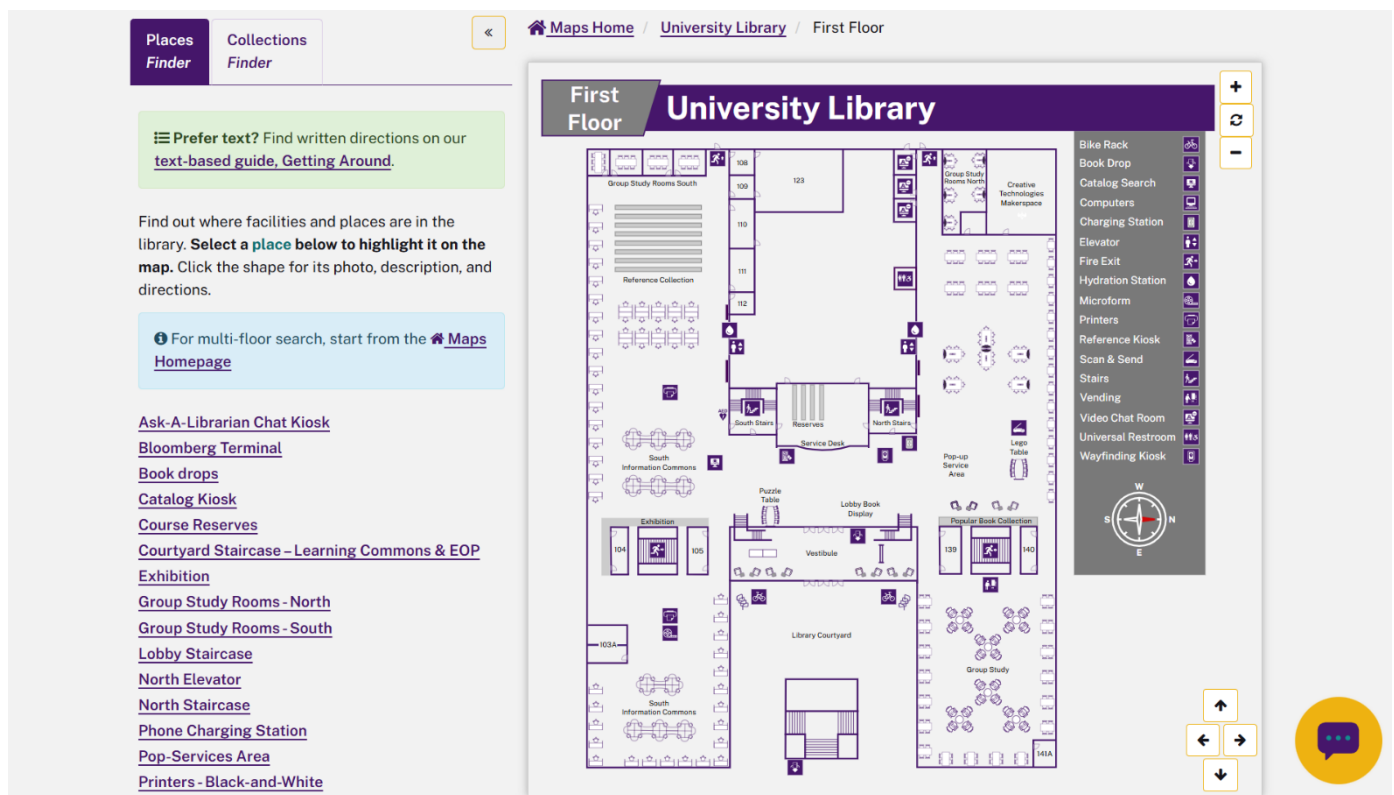
Christine Fena, Stony Brook, Past Winner
Hilary Wong, Cortland
Meghan Lenahan, Binghamton

Erin Rowley, Buffalo, Past Winner
Kabel Nathan Stanwicks, Albany, Past Winner
Rebecca Hewitt, SUNY Poly, Chair

SUSTAINABILITY SPOTLIGHT: SUSTAINABLE MAPPING & INCLUSIVE WAYFINDING AT UALBANY'S UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Lauren Puzier, Albany

Wayfinding only works if it keeps up with the library, and if your library is anything like ours, things are always shifting! A service point moves, a computer lab becomes a makerspace, a collection relocates two floors, a classroom becomes a tutoring room, and so on. This summer, several of those changes meant our maps needed a refresh. Our interactive maps, built on Springshare's LibMaps platform, have been available online and on large touchscreen kiosks (like you'd find in a mall) since last fall. Because they're easy to update, we could make those changes quickly. Updates go live online right away, and we can print new copies quickly for the maps posted in our stairwells and elevator bays.



One of UAlbany's interactive maps

The online maps also help students plan before they arrive. Select a place and use the Email Directions button to send the written directions to yourself, so you can review your route before you leave home. Written directions appear in the Directions field for most places on the map, such as service points, study rooms, and restrooms.

Those written directions come from a new companion resource we added this summer: Getting Around University Library, a text-based directions guide. The guide provides more means of access for wayfinding, supporting students with a range of needs, including those who rely on assistive technology like screen-readers, have low vision, and those who simply prefer text.

Developed with input from Disability Access and Inclusion Student Services (DAISS), the guide gives step-by-step written directions to key locations on all four levels of the library, with separate step-free routes where stairs and elevators lead different ways. It also covers entrances, restrooms, seating, and known barriers. Since everything is in words, it is also more discoverable by AI platforms, which helps ensure the results returned by chatbots or AI search summaries are up-to-date and accurate.

Students have shaped this work! Talking with them has helped us learn which places matter most to them, which are hard to find, and how the maps are working, and our rotating Student Advisory Board gives us regular feedback throughout the year. Their ideas are shaping what comes next. In our last meeting, they suggested placing QR codes around the building so they can quickly pull up a map on their mobile device and orient themselves on any floor. We're looking into it!

The guide's text is licensed CC BY-NC 4.0, so colleagues are welcome to adapt the approach. If you'd like to talk maps, wayfinding, or accessibility, I'd love to connect (lpuzier@albany.edu).

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

SUNYLA Annual Conference 2027

The SUNYLA Annual Conference will be taking place at UAlbany in June 2027—we welcome your help and ideas! The current tentative dates for the conference are June 16-18, 2027. If you are interested in joining a committee, please complete the [Conference Committee Interest Form](#) and look for more information soon about our initial meeting!

The committees are: General Conference Planning, Program (Sessions/Posters), Vendor Relations, Local Arrangements, and Conference Website.

Contact [Amanda Lowe](#), SUNYLA's 2nd VP/Conference Chair, if you have any questions.

CAMPUS NEWS & NOTES

ALBANY

Kabel Stanwicks

Welcoming New Colleagues

The University at Albany Libraries welcomed two new librarians this fall.

Robyn Bianconi joined the Libraries as Scholarly Communication Librarian, and **Megan Brand** joined as Business and Data Services Librarian. Both began on September 1.



(l-r) Robyn Bianconi, Megan Brand

Supporting Student-Parents and Caregivers

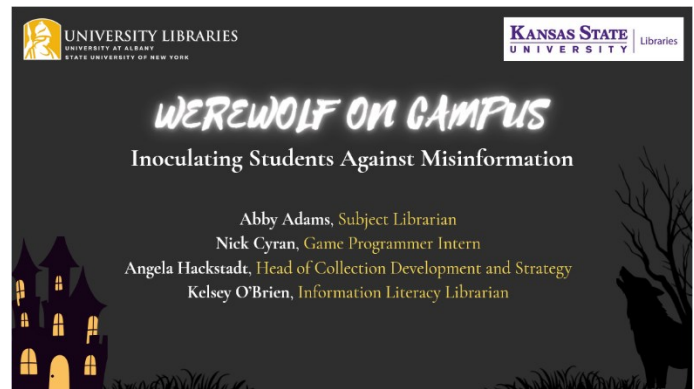
In recognition of National Student Parent Month, **Lauren Puzier** partnered with UAlbany's Office of Academic Progression and Success to host a Student-Parent & Caregiver Support Showcase in the University Library lobby throughout September. The showcase paired information about academic support services with fall-themed selections from the Libraries' Children & Young Adult and Education Curriculum collections. Students were invited to handle and borrow books and learning materials on the spot, highlighting resources that help student-parents, caregivers, and future educators read, play, and teach.



Display for Student-Parent & Caregiver Support Showcase

Fighting Misinformation Through Serious Play

Abby Adams, Angela Hackstadt, and Kelsey O'Brien presented their IMLS-funded project "Werewolves on Campus: Inoculating Students Against Misinformation" at the Serious Play Conference at Duke University on August 6, 2026. Computer Science grad student **Nick Cyran** demonstrated an early version of the game for conference attendees. Those interested in piloting the game may contact [Abby Adams](#). IRB approval is pending.



Screenshot from Werewolves on Campus presentation

University Library Renovation Moves into Concept Design

Planning for the comprehensive renovation of the University Library has entered the concept-design phase. The project team is developing three design options that explore new entrances, flexible service points, enhanced study and creation spaces, improved staff workspaces, a potential 24-hour study area, and stronger connections among the building's floors. Library faculty, staff, and students will contribute feedback as the concepts develop.

In support of the renovation, UAlbany Libraries has launched a major collection-management initiative with Ithaka S+R. Library faculty and staff are helping develop transparent, evidence-based, and repeatable approaches to collection review and deaccessioning.

Building Staff Capacity Around AI

UAlbany Libraries continues to build staff capacity around artificial intelligence through an AI adoption framework and a Copilot Community of Practice. The initiative emphasizes responsible experimentation, AI literacy, shared learning, and practical evaluation of emerging tools across library work.

Scholarship and Publication

Lauren Puzier and **Amanda Lowe** have an article on readers' advisory and the Popular Books Collection at UAlbany forthcoming in the November 2026 issue of *Library Trends*.

Amanda Lowe wrote a piece for the *UUP Voice*, titled "Defending the Right to Read."

Events and Community Engagement

The University at Albany Libraries offered a wide range of summer and fall programming designed to support student success, build community, and connect students with library, campus, and community resources.

During June and July, the virtual Summer of Horror Book Club returned with *Edenville*, by **Sam Rebelein**, and *Japanese Gothic*, by **Kylie Lee Baker**. The program provided opportunities for students, staff, alumni, and community members to participate in online book discussions and asynchronous conversations. The discussion of *Edenville* also included a live question-and-answer session with the author.

In July, library employees collaborated across divisions to welcome incoming Educational Opportunity Program students. Three tour sessions were organized for approximately 60 to 70 students per hour, with each session divided into four smaller groups. Separate tour routes introduced students to key spaces, services, and resources while helping manage movement through the University Library.

The Libraries opened the fall semester with several welcome activities. A reception held before Convocation by Candlelight brought together first-year commuter and transfer students to socialize, connect with one another, and learn about the Libraries. The Libraries also participated in Great DANetopia and hosted Great Dane Welcome @ Your Libraries, a mini resource fair featuring library information, activities, recreational reading materials, and campus and community partners.

Throughout September, the University Libraries hosted the Albany Public Library and New York State Library in the University Library lobby in recognition of Library Card Sign-Up Month. Students could sign up for public library cards and learn about the resources and services available through the two libraries. The tabling sessions were held on Wednesday afternoons throughout the month.

September programming also included a Banned Books Read-Out, a live marathon reading of the U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence, research and citation workshops, Zotero instruction, data-visualization workshops, movie and game nights, and the return of the Libraries' Queer Book Club. Together, these programs reflected the Libraries' commitment to academic support, intellectual freedom, civic engagement, recreational reading, and community-building.

ALFRED CERAMICS

Samantha Dannick

Personnel Changes

Thank you and bon voyage to **Rai Yiannakos**, Public Services Librarian, who has taken a position with Syracuse University Libraries.

Brian Sullivan has stepped down after seven years of service and leadership as Dean of Alfred University Libraries. Brian remains with AU Libraries and has taken on the Public Services Librarian role.

Laurie Lounsberry Meehan is serving as Interim Dean of AU Libraries and a search will be conducted for a new library leader.

Welcome to **Amie Acton** who has joined the team as part-time Archives Coordinator.



Laurie Lounsberry Meehan

Happenings

Scholes Library was featured during the Alfred University – NYS College of Ceramics excursion for the Glass Art Society Conference held in June in Corning, NY. The visit was coordinated and facilitated by librarians **John Hosford** and **Samantha Dannick**, in collaboration with glass faculty **Doris Möncke** and **Rebecca Arday**.

AU Libraries continued the highly popular plant giveaway program for Welcome Week. Over 100 library plant cuttings were distributed to students to add greenery to their new living spaces.

AU Libraries' Personal Librarian Program was featured in the *Alfred Magazine*.

John Hosford organized a new show in the Project Room gallery space in Scholes Library featuring the work of several AU faculty, *Americano Spritz: From the Green Heart of Italy to the Hills of New York*.

A new collaboration between AU Libraries and AU's Prunty-Russo Media Lab features circulating recording equipment and a reservable recording/editing space in Scholes Library.

Longtime library employee **Dave Snyder** presented a Bergren Forum, "50 Years with the Alfred Sun."

BINGHAMTON

Aleshia Huber

Over the summer, the Libraries completed some summer upgrade projects at the Science Library and Bartle Library North Entrance. Each location has installed new carpeting and has relocated books to other floors of each library to improve accessibility and create more collaborative study areas. New furniture arriving this fall will support diverse learning and working styles. The Science Library will also add an Anatmage table, a learning lab to digitally study human anatomy and clinical procedure simulations. This compliments the new anatomical models now available for checkout at the Science Library to support areas in biological sciences, nursing, and health sciences.



Bartle Library North stacks area with new carpeting

Staffing

We welcome several new hires from over the summer into early fall:

- **Shai-ana Bess**, Support Associate for Acquisitions
- **Miranda Cernoks**, Support Associate for Access Services
- **Allan Dumas**, Digital Accessibility Assistant
- **Kate Medina**, Library Assistant 1
- **Nick Romano**, Media and Emerging Technologies Learning Associate
- And welcome back to **Elise Thornley**, Staff Associate

Congratulations to **David Schuster** on his retirement from Binghamton University Libraries as the Director of Technology and his new position as Dean of Library Services at Chattanooga State Community College in Tennessee. We also congratulate **Kimberly Van Dick**, a member of the Storage and Delivery unit, on her retirement from the Libraries. Last but certainly not least, we congratulate **Curtis Kendrick** on his retirement. Some may remember Curtis as our previous Dean of Libraries from 2016 to 2022 who won the Friend of SUNYLA award in 2020. He stepped down to serve as the Faculty and Staff mentor Librarian. Curtis has led a strong career in advocacy, transformation, and inclusivity. All will be missed sincerely.

Awards

Bryan Field, the Libraries' Communications Officer, recently won one of the five awards presented at the Academic Library Advancement and Development Network (ALADN) Gala.

Exhibits

The Fall 2026 Special Collections exhibit is titled *Design + Function: Creative Images in Archives*. It features visual works from our University Archives collections dated between the 1950s and 1990s.

#BingCollects is back for the 4th time this year. Initiated in fall 2022, this pop-up exhibition is a collaboration between the Binghamton University Art Museum and the Libraries' Special Collections. It aims to raise student awareness of both collections' rich holdings available for them to explore. Pop-ups are held in different locations on campus throughout the year, and feature objects from our collections on a common theme and sub-theme. The common theme this year is "Rights, Radicals, & Revolutionaries." Check out the [Libraries' blog post](#) for the sub-theme topics and upcoming dates and locations.

Now and throughout the month of October, Binghamton Libraries is hosting the traveling exhibit *Urban Renewal in New York State* at the University Downtown Center Library. Provided by the South Central Regional Library Council (SCRLC), this exhibit was funded in part by Humanities New York with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Sustainability

The Science Library Sustainability Hub is back up and fully running after the installation of new carpet over the summer. As always, our Sustainability Hub offers resources to learn about initiatives on campus, find information about emergency preparedness, and help students start thinking about what sustainable life can look like. It contains a Seed Library, Terracycling Station, Citizen Science Kits, a Sustainability Book Collection, and more. It hosts a variety of events throughout the year, including a bi-weekly Sustainability Hub Interest Group, and a [Seed Saving workshop](#) on 10/7. Check out the [Sustainability Hub Subject Guide](#) or [past monthly newsletters](#) to learn more.



Sustainability Hub at Science Library

Events

October Events include:

- [Sparkle and Scholars](#), a Drag Queen Reading event with research lightning talks by faculty co-hosted with the Q-Center, on October 1
- [Lock in Before You Crash Out](#), an event designed to help attendees focus using the Pomodoro technique, on October 7
- [HistoryForge transcription sessions](#), a community-sourced digital mapping project hosted by Binghamton University Libraries, on October 2 and October 22

BROCKPORT

Dana Laird

Megan Elliott began as Digital Accessibility Specialist in late spring. During her one-year term, she is developing processes, workflows, and documentation to support remediation of published content for faculty to use in Brightspace course content. Additionally, she is working with **Dr. Megan E. Fox**, the Archives and Special Collections Librarian, to develop a plan to remediate thousands of documents in the SUNY Open Access Repository.

Brigitte Meskell and former Brockport librarian **Nicole Baker** recently had their LOEX conference paper, "Humans at the Helm: Teaching in an AI Era," published in a special edition of *LOEX Quarterly*.

Librarians **Alicia Marrese**, **Kellie Barbato**, and **Dana Laird**, along with former student intern and alumna **Lauren Conge**, had their book chapter proposal accepted in the upcoming ACRL publication *Experiential Learning in Academic Libraries: A Practical Guide for Student Engagement*. The chapter will offer a case study of the development and implementation of a one-semester paid undergraduate library internship at SUNY Brockport.

Kellie Barbato, head of research and instruction services, was recently appointed to a 3-year term on the board of ACRL's College Library Director Mentoring Program (CLDMP). A participant in the 2021-2022 cohort, Kellie is thrilled to give back to a program that helped to develop her leadership skills, which she still uses today in her department head role.



Kellie Barbato

Drake Memorial Library hosted a series of five Sunday afternoon events from Sunday, August 30, through Sunday, September 27. The series was designed to advance two primary goals: fostering a sense of belonging and connection among students while increasing awareness of Drake Memorial Library's spaces, services, and resources. The events included a book swap, art and craft DIY activities, and music bingo.

BUFFALO

Deborah Chiarella

Christopher Hollister, head of Scholarly Communication for the UB Libraries, was promoted to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Librarian. Chris is a "preeminent library expert in scholarly communication" and renowned for his impactful scholarship and exceptional service at both the national and international levels.



(l-r) Christopher Hollister, Elizabeth Adelman

Elizabeth Adelman, director of the Charles B. Sears Law Library and vice dean for legal information services in the School of Law, was appointed in June 2024 to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Librarian, the first librarian in UB history to receive that distinction.

Both Elizabeth and Christopher were recognized for their promotions to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Librarian at the 2026 Distinguished Academy Induction Ceremony, Monday, August 17th in Albany, NY. SUNY induction ceremonies are held triennially. This ceremony recognized those promoted to distinguished ranks in 2024, 2025, and 2026.

Michelle Zafron, an associate librarian in Health Sciences Library Services at the University at Buffalo Libraries, has been promoted to the rank of Librarian, also known as full librarian. Zafron has served in Health Sciences Library Services since 2003 and coordinates reference services for the Health Sciences Information Team and is library liaison to the School of Public Health and Health Professions.

Erin Rowley has been promoted to the rank of Librarian, also known as full librarian. Rowley has led the Science and Engineering Library Services team since 2018. She joined UB Libraries in 2017 as senior assistant librarian and was promoted to associate librarian in 2023.

Sarah Cogley and **Stacy Snyder** presented "Scoring AI for Accessibility: A Rubric-Based Framework" at the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI) Spring Membership Meeting in Salt Lake City in April, and at the SUNYLA Annual Conference in June. Stacy will give the same presentation at the Accessing Higher Ground conference in Denver in November.

SUNY at Buffalo Health Sciences librarians gave a variety of presentations at the Medical Library Association's 2026 meeting in Milwaukee, WI.

- Stellrecht, E., Maloney, M.K., Aronoff, N., Mueller, L., Hollister, J., Nichols, K., Swick-Jemison, J., Thomas, N., & Zafron, M.L. (2026, May). Examining evidence synthesis search methodologies at a R1 Institution: A scoping review. (Paper).
- Maloney, M.K., Aronoff, N., Christianson, M., Gagen, R., Ernst, M., Mueller, L., Olson, B., Theis-Mahon, N., Zafron, M.L., & Stellrecht, E. (2026, May). Cheddar together: The power of evidence synthesis apprenticeship. (Immersion session).
- Hendren, S., Ledbetter, L., Maloney, M.K., Aronoff, N., Zafron, M.L., & Stellrecht E. (2026, May). Creating a subject-inclusive evidence synthesis workshop for librarians: A multi-institution collaboration. (Poster).

BUFFALO STATE

Charles Lyons



Julie Setele

It's been a busy start to the fall semester for **Dr. Julie Setele**, User Experience and Outreach Librarian. First, Julie is the creator and host of E. H. Butler Library's Social Justice Book Club, a space for Buffalo State University community members to have meaningful conversations about challenging topics. This semester, the club is discussing the book, *So Many Stars: An Oral History of Trans, Nonbinary, Genderqueer, and Two-Spirit People of Color*. Julie also moderated a panel discussion of the documentary film *The Librarians* at the Beyond Boundaries Film & Discussion Series. Finally, at the Buffalo Humanities Festival, Julie represented the library on a panel called "Alt-Media," focusing on topics related to zines and other alternative, independent media.

Chris Hulsman, Electronic & Educational Resources Librarian, serves on the board of Project FLIGHT, a non-profit organization devoted to promoting literacy in children and caregivers through school and family

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AVAILABLE NOW

Dr. Rath's Search Term Generator

SUNY Campus Edition

An interactive worksheet that helps students brainstorm keywords, then use those keywords to search Primo.



Try it today!

Share with your students!

rath.phd/library-search/suny/



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literacy initiatives. Chris facilitated another generous donation of books from Project Flight for our Cecilia Bard Multicultural Library, a heavily used collection of children and young adult titles promoting pluralism, social justice, equity, and peace through literacy. This latest donation brings the collection size to 9,000 books valued at over \$150,000.

Joe Riggie, our Head of Information Management, worked with SUNY Press to acquire and create a display of books from “Growing Forward: Environmental Futures,” a vital collection of scholarship focused on our relationship with the natural world. Also, at Buffalo State’s Maud Gordon Holmes Arboretum, trees will be dedicated to SUNY Press for their 60-year anniversary during the Friends of the Arboretum’s annual Big Dig tree planting event.



Joe Riggie

E. H. Butler Library is hosting a monthly breakfast lecture series called Wonderbrink (formerly Creative Mornings). The meetings bring together the local creative community (from on and off campus) for a light breakfast, a performance (often a poetry reading or musical performance), and a talk on creativity. In partnership with the Creativity & Change Leadership Department, we’ve committed to hosting the meetings from January to December 2026 with the goals of promoting the new creativity and innovation spaces in the library and recruiting students for Creative Studies programs.

CAYUGA

Holly Kuhl



Terry L. Kupp

In Spring 2026, **Dr. Terry L. Kupp** was appointed permanent Director of Bourke Memorial Library at Cayuga Community College. Terry first stepped into the role on an interim basis during a period of significant staffing transition for the library. She met regularly with each member of the library staff, rebuilt operational processes, advocated successfully for the library’s budget, and kept essential work moving forward. She did all of this while co-chairing Cayuga’s multi-year reaccreditation process, shepherding the entire institution through its Middle States review. Before joining the library, Terry directed Cayuga’s Center for Academic Success, which includes tutoring, testing, and accommodations services. Over her years at Cayuga, she has become known for collaborative, transparent leadership, for putting the needs of her staff first, and for her steady commitment to the college’s mission and its students. The library team is thrilled to have her at the helm. Congratulations, Terry!

Cayuga is delighted to welcome **Renee Schmidt** back as the College’s new full-time E-Resources Librarian. Renee previously served Cayuga part-time as Electronic Resources, Systems & Collections Management Librarian, where she made significant contributions to the College and the library. An experienced e-resources librarian with a strong commitment to students and customer service, Renee is a welcome addition to the team once again. Welcome back, Renee!

COBLESKILL

Faye Starman

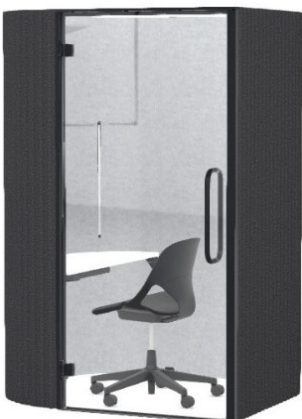
The Van Wagenen Library welcomed the newest members of our campus community with our third annual Open House for incoming students, featuring activities designed to build comfort and familiarity within the Learning Commons. Attendees channeled their inner sleuths during a library-wide murder mystery scavenger hunt that guided them through key service areas and resources. In between solving the mystery, students teamed up to design a colorful collaborative banner that is now proudly hung in the library and took time to unwind with visiting therapy dogs. The event once again proved to be a vibrant, welcoming introduction to everything the library has to offer.



Scavenger hunt "crime scene"

At the SUNYLA Annual Conference this past June, **Kate Brent**, Access Services/Systems & Archives Librarian, presented "Can You Do It All?," a poster exploring practical time management strategies tailored to the multifaceted demands of academic library work. It compared various productivity frameworks from calendar blocking to task prioritization models, emphasizing that there is no universal fix for professional burnout and heavy workloads. Instead, the poster highlighted that sustainable productivity requires an iterative approach; experimenting with multiple techniques to discover the personalized combination that fits individual workflows and responsibilities.

Faye Starman, Electronic Resources Librarian, also presented at the SUNYLA conference. Faye focused on how academic libraries can foster learning well beyond traditional campus audiences with her poster, "Storytime in the Library: Building Early Literacy Through Campus Partnership," at the ENY/ACRL Conference this past May. Addressing the growing role of academic libraries as community-centered educational environments, this poster examined a collaborative initiative with the campus-based Effie Bennett-Powe Child Development Center, where she provided monthly Storytime programming for children ages 3–5. The poster outlined core elements including early literacy program design, active reading strategies, music and movement integration, and follow-up literacy activities. Ultimately, the project highlighted how academic library partnerships with early childhood programs foster cross-campus engagement, early reading habits, and a sustained commitment to lifelong learning.



Individual study pod

The Van Wagenen Library recently obtained special funding for the installation of three one-person study pods. While our existing study rooms see constant traffic, head-count data revealed that occupancy was often a single student. By providing dedicated, distraction-free environments for individual study, the pods should free up our larger, traditional study rooms for group work and peer collaboration. Each fully enclosed unit features a glass door, integrated lighting, ventilation, power outlets, and sound reduction.

Looking ahead, the Van Wagenen Library has a lively lineup of fall programming designed to engage the entire campus community. Our Annual Book Sale kicked off on September 25th and will run throughout October, with all proceeds directly supporting future library programming. On October 19, students can

take a mid-semester study break to unwind with visiting therapy dogs. Just two days later, the heat turns up for our Annual Chili Cook-Off on October 21, where students, faculty, and staff will face off for bragging rights and culinary honors in three categories: Best Tasting, Hottest, and Most Unique. (Yes, visitors are welcome!)

CORTLAND

Hilary Wong

SUNY Cortland's Memorial Library was honored by the American Library Association for a Tik-Tok promoting the Library's Maker Cart. Congratulations to all librarians and student interns involved!

Congratulations to **Karen Dafoe**, who was recently promoted to Associate Librarian! Congratulations also to **Jenifer Phelan**, who has served at Cortland many years as a part-time Assistant Librarian, and is now a full-time, tenure track Senior Assistant Librarian!



Library's Maker Cart

All SUNY Cortland librarians participated in a workshop entitled "Craft and Connect: Meet Your Library Liaison" during Cortland's Professional Development Day in late August. Teaching faculty were able to interact with their library liaison in a casual, low-stress environment while making arts and crafts.

ERIE

Hadeen Stokes



Chancellor King at City Campus Library

SUNY Erie recently received a visit from Chancellor King, who took time during his visit to campus to stop by the City Campus Library and connect with library staff. His visit was warm and welcoming, and we appreciated the opportunity to welcome him into our space.

Congratulations to **Hadeen Stokes** of SUNY Erie City Campus, one of the 2026 recipients of the WNYLRC (Western New York Library Resources Council) Awards for Excellence in Librarianship. The award

was presented on September 22, 2026, during WNYLRC's 60th Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Ceremony.

We are looking forward to an exciting semester here at Erie, filled with programs and activities that will engage the academic community.



Hadeen Stokes & her award

ESF

Jane Verostek

Outreach

Moon Library's table at the annual SUNY ESF Fall Involvement Fair in September was a success! Librarian **Jane Verostek**, Assistant Librarian **Hanna Seraji**, and Associate Librarian **Ruth Owens** staffed the table

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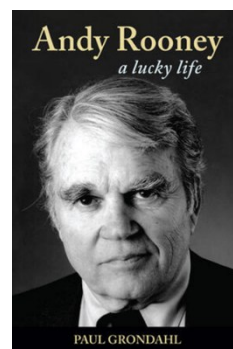
A Note from SUNY Press: 60 Trees for 60 Years

This year, SUNY Press celebrates its 60th anniversary, and we are marking it with a living tribute. Through 60 Trees for 60 Years, a partnership with the SUNY System Sustainability Office, campus sustainability teams, and campus libraries, 60 of the hundreds of trees being planted across SUNY campuses this fall will be dedicated to the press in thanks for the paper used over six decades to print our books. We thank every campus taking part in this fall's planting, along with the libraries hosting displays of our Growing Forward collection, beginning with SUNY Oneonta this spring and continuing throughout this fall at campuses including Binghamton, Buffalo State, Oswego, and Cobleskill. The collection brings together scholarship on our relationship with the natural world, spanning environmental philosophy and ethics, conservation, climate policy, ecopsychology, and environmental activism. Recordings of our Growing Forward author panels, part of our special anniversary programming, are available on our website. We appreciate these system-wide partnerships and the shared commitment to environmental sustainability, scholarship, and climate-related conversation.

Noteworthy and Forthcoming from SUNY Press

October is New York State History Month, so it seems a fitting time to remind everyone that SUNY Press has published hundreds of titles about the New York region. Two new additions offer very different ways into the state's twentieth-century story. Both titles can be ordered through all the usual library and retail channels.

Publishing this month (October 2026), is *Andy Rooney: A Lucky Life* by Paul Grondahl. It is a hilarious and heartbreaking biography of one of America's most popular commentators and beloved curmudgeons, whose biting wit and homespun humor earned him comparisons to Mark Twain and Will Rogers. It's a strong fit for collections in biography, media history, and New York regional history.



Arriving in January 2027, is *Labzik: Tales of a Clever Pup* by Chaver Paver, translated from the Yiddish by Miriam Udel, which follows a brave, big-hearted underdog and the close-knit, working-class family that adopts him in 1930s New York City. This book will be a welcome addition to collections in Jewish studies, children's literature, and New York City social history.



(continued from p. 16)

and spent time talking with undergraduate and graduate students about library services and programs, from in person citation workshops to our Seed Library. We also gave away **Jimothy the Racoon** themed buttons (which were a big hit), seed packets, and candy! A special thanks goes out to **Mike Stowell**, Evening and Weekend Supervisor, who assembled the buttons one-by-one with our in-house button maker.



(l-r) Hanna Seraji, Jane Verostek, Jimothy

Awards

Ruth Owens, Associate Librarian, was awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Librarianship in May 2026. Since joining ESF in 2013, Ruth has demonstrated exceptional skill in library operations, instruction, governance, and professional engagement, consistently exceeding the standards of her role. As the long-standing manager of interlibrary loan services, she has optimized efficiency with data-driven decisions. In her role in collection development, she has led major weeding projects that reshaped library space for student use, and managed hundreds of donations and purchases. During a budget reduction in 2024–25, she canceled low-use subscriptions while increasing individual article fulfillment by 172 percent, ensuring continuity of faculty research through a just-in-time access model. Ruth extends librarianship into the classroom as the primary instructor for ESF 200: Information Literacy, where she has continuously refined course design and pedagogy. She collaborates extensively with faculty across disciplines to integrate research instruction into the curriculum and has expanded information literacy instruction into additional core courses. She plays a central role in academic governance, chairing the Academic Affairs Committee and serving on assessment bodies critical to institutional effectiveness.

Conferences

Jennifer Nace, Scholarly Communications Librarian, will be presenting at the iGeLU (International Group of Ex Libris Users) conference in October of 2026 on the work that she has done over the last spring and summer bringing SUNY ESF's institutional repository, Experts@ESF, closer to Title II compliance. This work brings her experience to bear on the scholarly conversation regarding accessibility workflows and highlights the role librarians have always had in developing creative solutions to seemingly impossible asks.

Displays and Exhibits

Librarian **Jane Verostek** again acted as the on-site CNY 'Arts On My Own Time' Coordinator for SUNY



On My Own Time exhibit

ESF. This is the 53rd year of On My Own Time in the Syracuse community. Jane worked with SUNY ESF faculty and staff who are also artists throughout 2026. In June and July, artwork from college faculty and staff were put on exhibit in Moon Library. Artworks included watercolors, mixed media with yarn, metalwork, and woodworking. CNYArts brought established area artists to Moon Library as volunteer judges. **Kialey Day's** *Garden Guardian* artwork was a runner-up and went on to be displayed in Syracuse's

Art in the Atrium OMOT Runner-Up show over the summer. **George Westby's** *Moonset Over the Pine Mountains* piece was chosen to move forward to the larger OMOT exhibit at the Everson Museum of Art. The exhibit at the Everson Museum of Art will run from October through November.

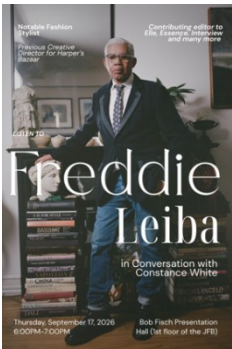
For the start of fall semester, Librarian **Jane Verostek** created a display highlighting some recent donations to the SUNY ESF Archives and Special Collections. The display showcases items that belonged to **Joseph Illick** (1884-1967), who was faculty member and Dean of SUNY ESF. His original camera, field research photos he took, and artwork he personally owned are on exhibit in the center of Moon Library.



Joseph Illick display

FIT

Greta Earnest



Leiba event poster

Library Event Collaborations

On September 17, the FIT library partnered with the FIT Social Justice Center for an event celebrating the 60-year career and impact of acclaimed stylist, **Freddie Leiba**. There was a fireside chat with **Constance White**, followed by a reception, and tours of a curated exhibit of Leiba's work in the library.

The library also collaborated with the UCE (United College Employees) of FIT and students to create shirtwaist banners that highlighted the names of the victims of the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire. These shirtwaists were then carried by UCE members at the Labor Day Parade and Rally.

We are partnering with the FIT Museum for a book release from global author **Sheila Gray**. On Thursday, October 29, Gray will have a discussion about her new book, *Grace Sewn In*, followed by a book signing.

FIT Special Collections and College Archive Donations

The library has accepted multiple exciting donations recently.



Sheila Gray

A \$400,000 donation from philanthropist **Ruth Ann Harnisch** via the Harnisch Foundation was received. The gift, with \$300,000 directed toward FIT's Special Collections and \$100,000 toward the Fashion History Timeline, funds archival processing and academic investigation. In Special Collections, the donation will be used in support of approximately 400 linear feet of rare archival materials. The funding will also be used to hire a temporary processing archivist and will allow the team to enrich their catalog.



From GPP collection

Other recent donations include:

- *Gladys Perint Palmer Papers*

An archive documenting fashion illustrator, editor, and educator **Gladys Perint Palmer**. Working across brands over several decades, Palmer was the Executive Director of the School of Fashion at the Academy of Art, Fashion Editor for the *San Francisco Examiner*, and editor for *South China Morning Post* in Hong Kong. The

collection spans 50 years and provides a unique resource across illustration, design, and communications. The collection includes extensive photographs, original artworks on paper, and editorial notes.

- *Kenneth Paul Block Papers*

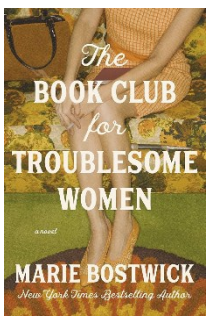
An archive documenting the career of fashion illustrator **Kenneth Paul Block**. Block worked for Fairchild Publications starting in the 1950s and illustrated for *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and numerous fashion designers. The collection includes correspondence, photographs, and hundreds of original artworks on paper



From Block collection

GENESEE

Liz Simmons



Richmond Reads

The GCC Library once again partnered with the Richmond Memorial Library in Batavia for their Richmond Reads one-book reading project. The 2026 title is *The Book Club for Troublesome Women* by **Marie Bostwick**, who visited GCC on October 15. Earlier in the month, the library and the campus' Reading Club hosted an event where students could step back in time to 1963—music, current events, food, fashion, etc. Students were invited to sample Carrot Relish Cups—a recipe found in the May 1963 *Better Homes & Gardens*—yum!

Personnel Changes

September saw the departure of **Allison Pettitt** and the welcoming of two new part-time librarians: **Melanie Hyland** and **Amy Hilburger**. Both are recent library school graduates—Kent State University and SUNY Buffalo, respectively.

New Murals

Over the summer, two murals were installed on the walls of the library's lower lounge to liven up spaces now shared by the library and Learning Center tutors. The *READ* and *LEARN* murals were created through a joint Learning Center and Library President's Innovation Awards grant received in 2025. Local GO ART! artist **Jill Pettigrew** designed the custom GCC-themed artwork, which has been printed and installed in vinyl by **Dan Butler** of Image Out Graphics in Perry, NY.

Space Modifications

In an effort to streamline check-ins for the Learning Center, the space where students make appointments/check-in for their



New GCC library murals

appointment was moved to a new location closer to the tutors, which freed up room for the college's new SUNY Reconnect Adult Learning Specialist to have an office in the library.

GENESEO

Max Sparkman

DHPSNY Visit

Milne Library College Archives & Special Collections was granted a Preservation Survey from Documentary Heritage & Preservation Services for New York (DHPSNY). DHPSNY Program Manager **Amanda Murray** visited Milne Library in August to assess materials within the archival collection and provided recommendations to support their continued preservation.



Amanda Murray in Milne Library's archival collection

Promotions & Awards

In September 2026, **Bill Jones** was promoted to the rank of Full Librarian in recognition of his contributions to library systems, resource sharing, and discovery services. Bill was also honored with the 2026 Association of Christian Librarians (ACL) Spirit of ACL Award, which recognizes exceptional service and leadership by newer members who demonstrate outstanding commitment to the mission of the Association. As Chair of the ACL Liberal Arts Section, Bill helped



Bill Jones

expand professional development and member engagement opportunities through initiatives such as LASIR Talks, LAS Insights Hour, and Book Talk gatherings.



In support of sustainability initiatives, Bill has been collaborating with **Timothy Jackson** (SUNY OLIS) and **Angela Persico** (University at Albany) on the development of HARP (Help with Alma Request Printing). HARP supports SUNY print-reduction initiatives through flexible, library-configurable printing options, including two-up pull slip layouts and print-on-demand return labels that reduce paper usage while improving workflow efficiency. The project demonstrates how collaboration and technology can support both operational effectiveness and sustainability goals across the SUNY system.

New Hires

Lilly North joined SUNY Geneseo as the Digital Collections Librarian in June. She received master's degrees in Information and Library Sciences and Music History from the University at Buffalo, and bachelor's degrees in Sound Recording Technology and Flute Performance from SUNY Fredonia.

Leo Bautista is the new Research Instruction Librarian for the School of Education at SUNY Geneseo. He received his MSLS with a focus in School Librarianship from the University of North Carolina in May and moved up to New York last month. He's excited to join the SUNY team and recently filmed a video with some School of Education graduate students highlighting various library resources—including our puppet collection!



(t-b) Lilly North, Leo Bautista

HUDSON VALLEY

Cynthia Koman

Lots of exciting things are happening here at HVCC! It's been a while since we have submitted a blurb to the newsletter, so some of these items may be a little older.

New Faculty and Staff

Peter Rieseler joined us in February of 2025 as our Electronic Resources Librarian. Previously, Peter worked at Hartwick College and most recently at the College of St. Rose. Peter is not our only librarian formerly employed by St. Rose—we also hired **Connelly McHugh** in 2024 as our Emerging Technology Librarian.

Danielle Walkup has joined us as our new Director of the Learning Commons. Danielle previously worked at SUNY Adirondack. **Rachel Farina** joined us as our new Coordinator of the Learning Commons. Together with the Dean, **Marcy Pendergast**, they manage the Marvin Library Learning Commons, which includes the library, the learning centers, and the CAE (Center for Academic Engagement).

We also have two new part-time librarians, **Brianna McIntire** and **Nate Heyer**. Welcome to all!

Conferences

We have been traveling or will be traveling to attend regional or statewide conferences.

- **Connelly McHugh** will be attending NYLA this year in November at Saratoga Springs, NY.

- **Cynthia Koman** and **Peter Rieseler** will be attending ENUG in October at Binghamton, NY.
- **Kisha Sawyers** traveled to Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA over the summer for the Data Science for Education (DS4EDU) Fellowship. She will be working on a research project entitled “Using Data Science to Inform an AI Conversational System for ESL Instruction.”

“New” Collection

For many years, we have been collecting publications of faculty, staff, and students of the College and have stored them in the Archives area. No one ever saw these items and they were not loanable. This year, we decided to bring them into the light! They are now available in the stacks in a designated area labeled ‘College Authors & Artists’ and are available for a two-week loan. Currently, this collection is just books, but we do have plans to gather articles authored by HVCC members. Pictures will be forthcoming once we have the signage complete! And a big thanks to Brandeis University who inspired the idea!

Library Events

To kick off the semester, our Library Engagement team hid various rubber ducks throughout our library stacks. This Lucky Duck hunt brought a lot of positivity to the students. Each duck was given a tag that wished the students good luck this semester!

MONROE

Afiya Farrell

First Year Experience Librarian **Afiya Farrell** continued with her new program, Motivation Mondays, providing students with encouragement, academic success strategies, and connections to campus resources. The program promotes persistence, resilience, and well-being while reinforcing the library’s role as a welcoming and supportive partner in student success. Farrell was also selected to participate in the Immersive Grant Writing Program through the Women’s Foundation of Genesee Valley, where participants develop expertise in grant research, proposal development, funding strategies, and storytelling. The program supports professional growth while building capacity for future library initiatives and partnerships.



Afiya Farrell

Information Literacy & AI Librarian **Joe Zelazny** represented MCC at the WNY Community College Consortium AI Focus Session, where community college professionals examined emerging trends in artificial intelligence adoption, governance, faculty development, and implementation. Joe is also coordinating MCC’s participation in the national Ithaca S+R AI Literacy Research Study, which includes interviews with MCC faculty and students as part of a multi-institutional effort to better understand AI literacy in higher education.

On Nov. 3, 2026, Farrell and Zelazny will co-present “Building Future-Ready Learners: Library Resources, Research Skills, and College Readiness” to school librarians from across Monroe County. The session explores the transition from high school research practices to first-year college expectations and includes topics such as college library resources, open educational resources, assignment decoding, source evaluation, citation practices, AI policies in higher education, and the SIFT framework for information literacy. The presentation is designed to help school librarians better prepare students for the academic and research expectations they will encounter in college.

The library's monthly display, Mass-Market Madness, features selections from the Glenn Tolle Collection and was curated by **Glenn Tolle**, Record Management Analyst at MCC. On loan to the library, the exhibit showcases a collection of vintage Gothic mass-market paperbacks known for their striking cover art, atmospheric storytelling, and enduring appeal within popular publishing. The display highlights the role personal collections can play in fostering curiosity, literary exploration, and campus engagement.



Mass-Market Madness display

MOHAWK VALLEY

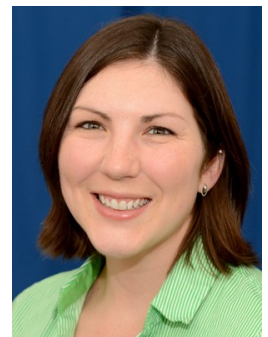
Jocelyn Ireland

This semester, MVCC Libraries are running a reading challenge. We are challenging our community to collectively read 100 books by the end of the fall 2026 semester. For those who want an additional challenge, we have book bingo with the chance for additional prizes.

Milo Cameron was recently promoted to the rank of Assistant Professor.

Alongside **Rai Yiannakos** and **Maria Planansky**, **Milo Cameron** presented "Information as power: Librarians at the Intersection of Politics and Community" at the SUNYLA annual conference. This presentation recapped several social justice focused information sharing programs, including a teach-in about ICE, LGBT+ advocacy education for faculty and staff, and gender-affirming outreach events for students. At MVCC's August Institute, Milo presented "Slow Violence and Equity in the Classroom," an application of **Rob Nixon's** *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor* to our diverse and ever-evolving classrooms.

This summer, **Jocelyn Ireland** facilitated an online module for **Logan Rath's** Community of Practice for Academic Library Instruction (COPALI). Her module, "Working Within the One-Shot," explored strategies for making the most of limited instructional time, including backward design, writing effective learning outcomes, engaging students, and extending support beyond the one-shot session. Jocelyn was also honored with the Friend of SUNYLA Award at the 2026 SUNYLA Annual Conference.



Jocelyn Ireland

MORRISVILLE

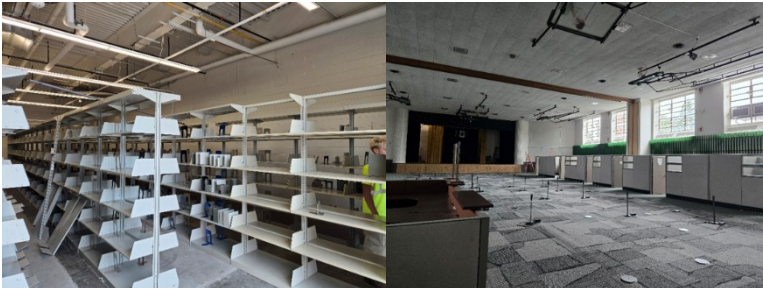
Adam Saunders



Sara Dougherty

Change is happening at the SUNY Morrisville Library! First, the Library is thrilled to welcome **Sara Dougherty** as our new Learning Resources Coordinator. In this new role, Sara will help connect students with the academic support, accessibility resources, technology, and services they need to succeed at Morrisville. Students will see Sara throughout the Library, including at the Circulation Desk, where she will assist with day-to-day library services. She will also play an important role in supporting the

Accessibility Services Center, learning and assistive technologies, student-facing programs, and other academic support initiatives.



Library renovation in progress

The Library's building renovation project also continues to move forward, albeit at a slower pace than originally anticipated. However, two major portions of the project were completed at the end of the summer: both of the Library's temporary surge spaces are now ready. The first surge space, located in Galbreath Hall, will house the majority of the Library's general

book collection during the renovation. Galbreath was selected because it offered one of the few available spaces large enough for the collection with a floor capable of structurally supporting the weight of the books. The space, formerly a diesel technology lab, has been renovated and outfitted with updated HVAC systems to provide appropriate temperature and humidity control. Shelving from the Library's second floor, which had been emptied following a major weeding project two years ago, was disassembled and reassembled in the new Galbreath location. The general collection will be moved into the space once a moving contractor has been selected.

The second surge space is our temporary Library home in the former Hamilton Hall gymnasium. Over the summer, the gym was completely reworked to accommodate Library operations as well as academic support services and offices. For now, the newly renovated space will remain mostly empty, but that will change quickly at the end of the spring semester or in early summer, when Library operations are currently scheduled to relocate to Hamilton Hall. This temporary location will allow services to continue while renovations are completed in the Library's current building.

While we wait for the big move, several changes are already taking place within our current space. The former Tutoring Corner has been transformed into the Learning Commons Lounge, providing students with another comfortable place to study, collaborate, and spend time between classes. Tutoring services have transitioned online through the Knack tutoring platform, allowing students to connect with peer tutors virtually. Upstairs, the large open area created by the removal of shelving has also found some new uses. The space now includes a labyrinth, providing students with an opportunity for quiet reflection and stress relief, as well as a new workspace for Accessibility Services interns.

NEW PALTZ

Chrissy O'Grady

Jennifer Rutner, Associate Librarian, launched the [Library Nerds Club](#). This is an informal weekly gathering where folks on campus can come together to talk about all things "library." Faculty and staff are welcome to attend, and maybe to share something they love about libraries. Topics so far have included STL's Library of Things, getting library cards for other libraries, Library of Congress Classification, and maps and atlases.

Kate Bellody, Student Success Librarian, collaborated with the Black Lives Matter at School Collective, Mindful Campus, Elting Memorial Library, and the Margaret Wade Lewis Center on "Banned Series: Books

Edition.” The event took place on Sept. 8 and included library card sign-ups and learning about banned books.

Kim Alessi, Circulation Department Supervisor, retired at the end of May after 14 years of working at STL. We miss her and hope she is enjoying every moment of retirement.

NIAGARA

Jean Linn

A local family donated their 1571 Froschauer bible to the College. It is currently displayed on the library’s main floor in a case donated by the College Foundation. A presentation is scheduled on the Bible’s history and its travels from Switzerland to Sanborn, NY.

To increase a sense of belonging on campus, Library chair **Jean Linn** created a pet board where students and library patrons can share photos of their pets.

Instruction & Assessment Librarian **Andrew Yeager** is Faculty Senate President for 2026-27, as well as co-chair of College Council.

Public Services Librarian **Andy Aquino** is resuming his role as the Faculty Senate Professional Development Committee chair.

We are happy to welcome back our part-time librarians: **Michelle Harris, Remi Nation, Dave Odum**, and **Laurie Sandretto**. Wishing everyone a fulfilling fall semester!

ONONDAGA

Claire Ehrlich

OCC welcomed a new Provost on June 1, **Dr. Hector Rodriguez**. He came to OCC from Hudson Valley Community College, where he served as Executive Dean for STEM and Institutional Effectiveness.

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education officially reaffirmed OCC’s accreditation over the summer following a successful site visit in March. Librarians **Michelle Malinovsky** and **Lisa Hoff** each co-chaired a standard on the college steering committee.

Along with OCC’s Chief of Staff, **Julie Hart, Michelle Malinovsky** planned an AI speaker series for the academic year focusing on the impact of GenAI in higher education and hosted the first speaker, **Dr. Stephen Aguilar**, Associate Professor of Education in the Educational Psychology concentration at the USC Rossier School of Education, on Sept. 25. Dr. Aguilar spoke about topics in his new book *Authenticating Intelligence: Preventing AI from Hijacking Education*. Our upcoming speakers include **Dr. Melanie Hibbert**, the Director of Academic Technologies & Learning Innovation Services and the Sloate Media Center at Barnard College, Columbia University; **Dr. Samuel Abramovich**, an Associate Professor in the Graduate School of Education at the University at Buffalo; SUNYLA’s very own **Allison Hosier** (and fellow AI fellow alumni with Michelle), the Head of Information Literacy at the University at Albany; and **Emily Laird**, the AI Integration Technologist at UW-Stout Polytechnic University and host of the *Generative AI 101* podcast.

Staff News

Tim Saka, Reference Librarian, was promoted to the rank of Full Professor in September 2026. He joined OCC in January 2018, and has made significant contributions to student success, teaching, librarianship, and professional development. Tim manages the Reference Department and teaches LIB 110: Introduction to Library Research Skills, helping health sciences students. He expanded his teaching to online instruction, earning Quality Matters certification and developing accessible learning materials for students. His professional accomplishments include the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Librarianship in 2025 and the Ann Felton Multicultural Leadership Award in 2024. Tim's promotion also recognizes his extensive service to the college and the broader community. At OCC, he has contributed to the Middle States accreditation process, the Library Research Awards Committee, the DEIB Council, and several college-wide committees and initiatives. Congratulations, Tim!



Tim Saka



Michelle Malinovsky

Michelle Malinovsky is serving as chair of the campus Curriculum Committee for the 2026/27 academic year. Additionally, after serving as one of the inaugural SUNY AI Fellows for the Public Good last academic year, Michelle applied for and was appointed to the second cohort. This year, the Fellows will be focused on helping SUNY faculty with AI exploration and integration within their disciplines. Michelle is the only librarian in this year's cohort. Michelle also acted as a member of a SUNY CPD Advisory Committee over the summer to develop updated learning outcomes and curriculum for the Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education professional development courses. She is also excited to be representing OCC at the American Association of Colleges and Universities' (AAC&U) Conference on AI and Higher Education in Atlanta, GA at the end of October. On October 2, Michelle presented alongside OCC English Prof. **Christian Heisler** at The Two-Year College English Association Northeast Regional Conference on their work in developing an Information Literacy: Research with GenAI OER textbook which is now integrated into all ENG 103 courses at OCC meeting the SUNY Gen Ed Info Lit competency.

Claire Ehrlich was elected to the Library's seat on OCC's Faculty Senate. With **Lisa Hoff** sitting on Senate as chair of the Learning Outcomes Assessment Committee, and **Michelle Malinovsky** sitting on Senate as Curriculum Committee chair, the librarian takeover of faculty governance is well underway.

Library Events and Programming

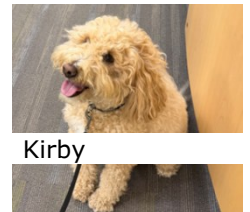
Claire Ehrlich and the rest of the library staff planned a new-to-Coulter event during the first week of classes—Pop into the Library, where students were encouraged to 'pop in' for pop-themed treats, a passive scavenger hunt, a white board poll, and book raffles (credit for the original idea goes to the former librarians at Western Illinois University). Library staff donated popcorn, mini Pop Tarts, Ring Pops, Tootsie Roll Pops, Pop Corners chips, stress-relief popper keychains, and pop culture meme stickers. The event was deemed a success with over 100 tallies on the whiteboard poll, 16 completed scavenger hunts, and students observed either coming in just for the event, or participating in the event after coming to the IT Help Desk, which is located in the front of the library.

After hosting separate events for their liaison schools last spring, **Tim Saka** and **Claire Ehrlich** teamed up on a joint library open house for the School of Technology, Engineering, and Computing and the School of Art, Communication, Business, and Entrepreneurship. The event was held in the building lobby right outside the library to accommodate the large crowd. Tim helped students use the library's button maker, and Claire encouraged students to spin the library's trivia wheel and take part in school-specific library scavenger hunts. Total attendance was slightly higher than the combined totals of the two separate events held in spring, and it was a great way for librarians and school staff to connect with each other and with students.

Claire Ehrlich and **Michelle Malinovsky** co-developed a workshop for students on using OneDrive to organize their files. OCC is a Microsoft campus, but students coming straight out of high school are often only familiar with Google Drive, and tech familiarity in general varies widely among the student body. Held as part of an ongoing campus series of student workshops, workshop attendance far exceeded expectations (and the room's capacity) and received a lot of positive feedback.

Tim Saka represented the library in the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences' 2nd Annual Faculty Bake-Off, taking 2nd place!

Coulter Library is pleased to continue working with Pet Partners of Central New York to bring therapy dogs to the library twice a month. The dogs hang out near the library's main entrance during 'college hour' and are usually surrounded by a crowd of students. So far this semester, we have welcomed **Kirby** and **Bruce** (not pictured).



OSWEGO

Morgan Bond

Displays & Past Events

If you walked into Penfield Library during the month of September, you noticed the six large, freestanding banners positioned near the main entrance and Room 101. Part of the New York State Parks' "Enslavement to Freedom: 1627-1827-2027" initiative, this particular exhibit was titled *Another Face of War: Enslaved and Free Blacks in the Revolution*. The banners featured the stories of Black soldiers who fought on both sides of the American Revolution and highlighted the cultural shifts those soldiers and their



Another Face of War exhibit

contemporaries lived through. Assistant Library Director **Emily Mitchell** worked with NY State Parks to bring these banners to Penfield Library. She and Reference, Instruction, & Outreach Librarian **Allie Madar** also put together a coordinating book display to encourage library users to dig deeper into the topics covered on the banners. In addition to ordinary passersby stopping to view the banners, at least one faculty member brought their class to engage with the exhibit before returning to their classroom to discuss it as a group.

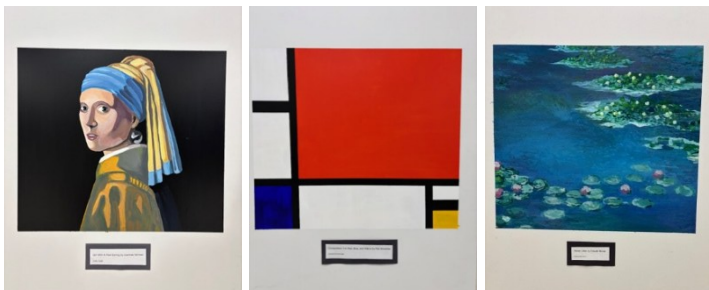
Literature Coming Out of Oswego is an exhibit from Archives & Special Collections. This exhibit was created and researched by student interns (**Merin Hemminger** and **Cristina Gaskievicz**) during the Spring 2026 semester and installed by Digital Collections Librarian **Marissa Caico** and University Archivist Librarian **Zachary Vickery** over the summer. The student interns also created a Zine to accompany the exhibit.

On September 25th, Penfield Library celebrated **Dolly Parton** Day with free buttons, magnets, and a raffle basket. We highlighted the Oswego County chapter of the Imagination Library and gave out information so that people could either donate or sign up their children. **Walter**, the Penfield Library bookworm, wore a cowboy hat for the occasion. **Ben Franklin** even got into the spirit of the day!



(l-r) Faith O'Brien & Walter with Dolly Parton Day goodies, Ben Franklin in his Dolly inspired outfit

Several bookshelves in Penfield Library's Art Books Collection stand out from the rest, each now adorned with hand-painted copies of famous artworks. In the spring of 2026, three graduate students from the Master of Art in Teaching program volunteered their time and exceptional artistic talent to make the Art Books Collection space a more exciting and welcoming space for fellow students. The three MAT students,



Student-painted copies of famous artworks

Emily Lyga, **Andrea Bowerman**, and **Gabrielle Audi**, each chose a work of art that interested them. When asked why she chose to paint Monet's *Water Lilies*, Audi responded, "Claude Monet is one of my favorite artists, and his water lilies are an iconic staple. I got the opportunity to visit his home and gardens in Giverny, France this summer and it was amazing!" Librarians **Allie Madar** and **Morgan**

Bond will be working with another group of student artists from the Master of Art in Teaching program this fall to continue the project. We're excited to see what artwork the students choose this semester, and to see the Art Books Collection transformed into a truly unique space.

Digital Preservation

More issues of *The Oswegonian* student newspaper are now available online through NYS Historic Newspapers. Penfield Library received a Special Collections Grant from the Northern New York Library Network (NNYLN) to microfilm and digitize issues from Fall 2010 through Spring 2025. Now, researchers have access to 90 years of this publication. Learn more about this project at our "[Continuing to Preserve The Oswegonian](#)" [blogpost](#).

Staff News

Congratulations to Research, Instruction & Outreach Librarian **Nicole Westerdahl** on her promotion to Associate Librarian!

Congratulations to University Archivist Librarian **Zachary Vickery** on his promotion to Associate Librarian and receiving tenure!

Cataloging and Government Documents Librarian **Catherine Carrà** led a discussion about preserving government information at the ALA Rainbow Roundtable's monthly meeting. **Allie Madar**, a Research, Instruction, & Outreach Librarian, hosted the event.

Upcoming Event

Penfield Library and the SUNY Oswego Office of Sustainability are partnering with several other departments on campus and SUNY Press to host a tree planting event on October 28 in honor of SUNY Press' 60th anniversary. The event will feature:

- Tree planting to celebrate SUNY Press' 60th Anniversary (East of Penfield Library, outside of Marano Campus Center)
- Tree-themed snacks (apples and cider)
- Book displays courtesy of SUNY Press and Penfield Library
- Student art related to the event and trees exhibited in the lobby of Penfield
- Rice Creek Field Station will be present to give out oak tree seedlings and provide tree seed harvesting and planting information
- SeedShare will host an engagement table in the lobby of Penfield to make seed paper bookmarks and learn about seed saving
- Library and Sustainability Staff in the Penfield Lobby will assist with directing attendees to all the events

PLATTSBURGH

Michelle Toth

We congratulate **Holly Heller-Ross**, who was appointed to the rank of Distinguished Librarian by the SUNY Board of Trustees. Holly is the third Feinberg librarian to earn the Distinguished rank, after **Cerise Oberman** and **Carla List-Handley**. Holly's portrait will be added to the wall of distinguished faculty here in Feinberg Library.



Holly Heller-Ross

The Feinberg Library Research Prize recognizes student excellence in library research. Submissions must be for a project completed in a 300- or 400-level course for the undergraduate prize and a graduate level course for the graduate prize. Winners receive: \$500 (applied to their college bill), a certificate, and publication of their submission in the SUNY Open Access Repository (SOAR). **Mikayla Ormsby** was our Undergraduate library research prize winner this year. Her paper, "History Hates Lovers: Modern Perceptions of Queer Relationships and Women in 19th Century America" was written for her Historical Advanced Honors Project under the mentorship of **Dr. Vincent Carey**. For the first time the Feinberg



(l-r) Mikayla Ormsby & Vincent Carey; Olivia DeVito, Library Director Joshua Beatty & Mark Lesser

Library Research Award was expanded to include a Graduate-level award. **Olivia DeVito**, a graduate student in the Natural Resources and Ecology program, won the award for her paper, "Temperature Gradient Impact on the Relative Abundance, Diversity, and Density of Trees at Whiteface Mountain," written for **Dr. Mark Lesser's** Forest Ecology and Management course.

Several Feinberg librarians participated in the SUNYLA conference this summer:

- **Joshua Beatty, Sarah Jennette** (Clinton Community College), **Parker O'Mara**, and **Malina Thiede**. "One Library Serving Two Institutions: How Clinton Community College and SUNY Plattsburgh Merged Collections and Services" (Presentation).
- **Holly Kuhl** (Cayuga Community College) and **Sarah Petras**. "Still in This Together: Updates from SILC's Gen-Ed MicroCourse Taskforce" (Presentation).
- **Holly Heller-Ross**. "Remembering to Evaluate: Mnemonics for Critical Evaluation of Information Resources" (Poster).
- **Lindsey Bradley** and **Parker O'Mara**. "Preparing For a Library Merge: Feinberg Library's Last Copy & Weeding Project" (Poster).

Library Sustainability Project

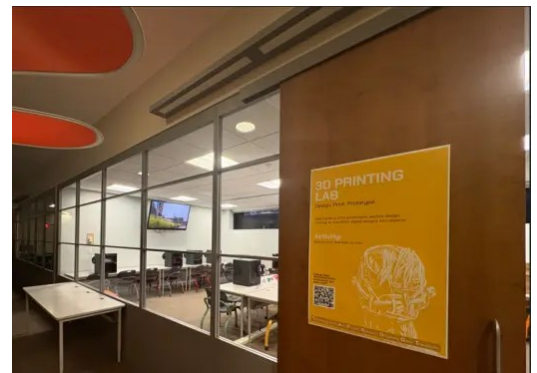
Feinberg Library is partnering with Casella Waste Management to complete a large-scale book recycling project and to achieve Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI) Certification. The SLI Certification Program is a framework for libraries to increase environmental stewardship, economic feasibility, and social equity.

Casella is funding semester-long internships for the next five years to recycle weeded books and complete the SLI certification requirements. This work is being done in conjunction with the large-scale weeding of the library's general collection. **Parker O'Mara** is the project director, and many library faculty, staff, and student workers are participating. To date, Feinberg Library has recycled 50,000+ books, generating over 10,000 pounds of recyclable paper.

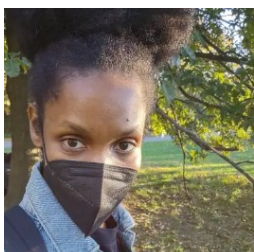
PURCHASE

Jaime Neudecker

We are excited to announce a new addition to the SUNY Purchase Library: The Taproot 3D Printing Lab and Podcast Studios! These spaces provide students, faculty, staff, and community members with access to technologies that support creativity, experimentation, and hands-on learning. The space features high-powered computers and a dedicated 3D Printing Lab, where patrons can design, prepare, and print their own 3D models. The Podcast Studios offer additional opportunities for creative work, from recording podcasts, interviews, and music to developing multimedia projects using powerful Mac Studio platforms. The Taproot 3D Printing Lab and Podcast Studios continue to be a work in progress, but we are excited to watch it grow!



Purchase Library's new 3D Printing Lab



Lorraine LaPrade

Lorraine LaPrade, our Student Success Librarian at SUNY Purchase, will be leading a new workshop, "Learning from the Practice: What Empowerment Self-Defense Training Has Taught Me About Showing Up for Self and Community," at the New England Library Association Conference (NELA) on October 27. Lorraine has also been working with our larger campus community to host a [Long Table forum](#) on October 14 as part of the campus's Days of Action and Dialogue. Faculty, staff, and students will discuss the theme of "Belonging on Campus" and what it means to be a part of the Purchase community.

And congratulations go to our Librarians **Darcy Gervasio**, **Kim Detterbeck**, and **Rebecca Oling** for their newly published book chapter titled “Slow Assessment Revisited: Finding Space for Authentic Assessment in Slow Librarianship” in *Slow Librarianship: Reflections and Practices* (Litwin Books & Library Juice Press, February 2026). The chapter reflects upon their work, begun a decade ago, to build an information literacy assessment rubric for senior projects, and creates a new, expanded definition of ‘slow assessment’ which incorporates current discourse on critical pedagogy and slow librarianship. The chapter also offers practical tips and examples for librarians who wish to apply ‘slow’ practices to a variety of aspects of library work.

STONY BROOK

Jennifer DeVito

SBU Libraries welcomed several new people over the summer:

- **Ashley Tschakert-Foertmeyer**, Academic Engagement Librarian
- **Mac Nies**, Content Management Specialist
- **Stephanie Lopez**, Clinical Information Specialist
- **Gianna Fraccalvieri**, Curator/Archivist PRODIG+ Fellow
- **Hojun Son**, Ph.D., AI Research Scientist

SBU Libraries joined AI4LAM (Artificial Intelligence for Libraries, Archives, and Museums) as a founding member.

The Music Library received a Presidential Mini-Grant for Departmental Initiatives. The grant will support a Music Library Listening Series designed to highlight discussion about the library’s vinyl collection.

Hojun Son, Ph.D., wrote an article that was recently published in the *Journal of Visual Impairments & Blindness*. The article, titled “Assessment of a Multimodal Feedback System for Independent Navigation of People with Visual Impairments,” details a study led by Son exploring how wearable devices may provide guidance for people with visual impairments.



Hojun Son

SBU Libraries recently debuted a humanoid robot to library staff. During the demonstration, the robot, named Rubo, showcased its ability to answer questions and mirror movement.

SBU Libraries will be hosting its fourth Human Library event on Wednesday, November 18.

SUFFOLK

Joan Cook

Fabio Montella, Associate Professor of Library Services and History, was interviewed for an article published in *Riverhead Local Community News* titled, “Satchel Paige Game at Forgotten Riverhead Stadium Inspires Local History Project.” The article explores the history of Wivchar Stadium in Riverhead, New York. Montella, who specializes in Negro Leagues and Long Island baseball history, discussed the stadium’s significance. Montella is credited for discovering that Hall of Fame pitcher Satchel Paige played at the stadium on July 21, 1950, a finding that led to the



Fabio Montella

installation of a historical marker at the forgotten site. In addition, Montella was featured in a September 20, 2026, *Newsday* article on the history of women's baseball leagues. Montella is currently writing a book on the history of women's baseball leagues.

Sheila D. Fox, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Library and Reader Services Librarian, recently had her art on display at the [Coconino Center for the Arts](#) in Flagstaff, Arizona as part of an international exhibition titled, *NightVisions:AMBER*. Fox's relief sculpture, *Finding a Way Through the Dark*, carries multiple meanings. Within the context of the exhibition, it expresses the search for direction and meaning in a dark sky environment and in the broader universe. More broadly, the work suggests a search for a path through difficult times, whether political, social, cultural, or personal. The piece is constructed from plaited paper painted black, with white cotton cord stitched throughout. The road-like imagery evokes a journey of discovery, while the white lines may be interpreted as either rain or a meteor shower.



Finding a Way Through the Dark, by Sheila Fox

Recent promotions at Suffolk County Community College include **Kerry Carlson** to Professor of Library Services and **Joan Cook** and **Keith Pardini** to Associate Professors of Library Services.

Kristen Cinar, Assistant Professor of Library Services, has joined the Ammerman Campus Library as a temporary reference/instruction librarian to replace **Jennifer Farquhar**, Professor of Library Services, who retired in August.

TOMPKINS CORTLAND

Karla Block

Students launched the Panther Book Club this fall, with librarian **Susanna Van Sant** as their club advisor. The club meets weekly in comfortable seating adjacent to the library's Leisure Reading Collection.

Librarian **Eric Jenes** was elected Chair of the inaugural TC3 Faculty Senate.

During the week before fall classes began, librarians **Karla Block** and **Susanna Van Sant** presented a session for faculty. The session introduced practical library technologies and services that help faculty better support students by meeting them where they already work and learn. Participants explored the LibGuide LTI tool in Brightspace, the Nomad++ browser extension, and ways to partner with librarians to design effective research assignments that strengthen students' information literacy and research skills.

Tompkins Cortland Community College joined the [ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge](#) in 2024 and remains a member today. ALL IN is a non-partisan coalition aimed at creating educational campaigns built around voter registration efforts on collegiate campuses. According to ALL IN, it "encourages higher education institutions to help students form the habits of active and informed citizenship, make democratic participation a core value on their campus, and cultivate generations of engaged citizens who are essential to a healthy democracy." The College partnered with the League of Women Voters of Cortland County for a semester-long voter registration tabling campaign in the library. The table includes extensive information along with voter registration forms and is staffed periodically by members of the League.

UPSTATE

Michelle Bowers

We've been excited to welcome four new staff members in recent months:

- **Holly Nodzo**, Student Work-Study Supervisor
- **Emily Miller**, Digital Archivist
- **Marcía "Marcie" Tuzzo**, Library Administrative Assistant
- **Patrick Wolfe**, Library Systems Specialist (starting in October)

We've also gained some new student workers, and Holly has been doing a wonderful job of introducing them to everyone and making them feel comfortable amidst the craziness of a new semester.

We're proud to announce that **Abigail Smith**, Assistant Director for Research & Instruction, recently received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Librarianship. Abby has provided nine years of outstanding service to Upstate. In her current role, she leads research and instruction initiatives, supports evidence-based practice and clinical care, and provides expert literature searching and evidence-synthesis services.



Abigail Smith

Two of our Research and Instruction librarians represented the library at Upstate's Welcome Fest in August. **Christina Almonte** and **Stephen Weiter** promoted the library's services while running fun activities and prize giveaways.

Our Access Services team continues to put out some great programming, starting with a Mario Kart tournament. Some other recent and upcoming events include making a felt pennant flag, making a yarn balloon pumpkin, a journaling workshop, and a geode skull craft. They've also set up several always-popular therapy dog visits.

Sarah Lawler, Clinical Outreach Librarian, is gearing up for our annual Welloween event in October, which hosts health and wellness events ranging from flu shots to guests from Student Counseling to drop-in crafts and coloring.

WESTCHESTER

Josh Weber

Library Welcome Week

The Harold L. Drimmer Library and the Greenburgh Public Library recently partnered to host Library Welcome Week. The event welcomed students and showcased the diverse resources and services available at both libraries. Throughout the week, students played interactive games, tested their knowledge of the libraries, and had the chance to win exciting prizes. The various activities helped students discover the comprehensive support provided by both their campus and local public library, while fostering a sense of community.



Domenick Gasparro & students

One highlight of the week was the opportunity for students to sign up for a Greenburgh Public Library card, giving the WCC community an additional tool to access books, digital media, research databases, and more. This collaboration further demonstrates the value of expanding partnerships to enrich student access to library resources.

Staff News

Josh Weber has been named a 2025–2026 recipient of the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Librarianship. Professor Weber oversees assessment of library services and resources, virtual reference service, and the library’s website. He also supports student success by serving as a research advisor for Phi Theta Kappa and supporting various student clubs, such as the Student Gaming Guild. Since 2018, Weber has also served as co-chair of the Faculty Senate General Education Committee.



Georgia Kamm

Georgia Kamm is the new Information Literacy Librarian at The Harold L. Drimmer Library. She holds a master’s degree in library science from Long Island University and a master’s degree in history from New York University. She previously served as the Humanities Reference and Instruction Librarian at The College of New Jersey, and brings a wealth of teaching experience to her role at WCC. Her interests include Latin American history, primary source research, and critical pedagogy. Georgia is

passionate about working with undergraduate students at the reference desk, in the classroom, and through research consultations to promote a lifelong love of research and learning. She is also excited to build partnerships with faculty and continue to grow the library’s information literacy program.

What Keeps You at SUNY?

Join the Personnel Policies Committee’s Stay Study Initiative!

Are you curious about what makes librarians choose to build careers within the SUNY system? The SUNYLA Personnel Policies Committee is looking for new members to help us explore this exact question by designing an upcoming SUNY-wide stay survey.

While traditional exit interviews capture why professionals leave, our study focuses on understanding the core motivations that encourage librarians to stay employed with SUNY.

Why Join the Committee?

- **Direct Impact:** Help design, distribute, and analyze a survey on retention across SUNY library environments.
- **Cross-Campus Collaboration:** Work closely with colleagues across SUNY campuses.
- **Professional Growth:** Gain valuable committee service experience and contribute to actionable workplace research.

Whether you have experience in survey design and data analysis or are passionate about librarian advocacy, retention, and workplace well-being, we welcome your voice and perspective. If you are interested in joining the committee or learning more, please reach out to [**Heather Stalter**](#).

GRANT REPORT: REPORTING FROM ALA

Lauren Puzier, Albany

Attending the 2026 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in Chicago was inspiring, fun, and exhausting (I averaged 18.3k steps a day!). I learned a lot and I am grateful to SUNYLA and a good pair of sneakers for helping make this trip possible.

NMRT Leadership

I attended the conference in my elected role as Networking Director for ALA's New Members Round Table (NMRT), and this year marked the end of my term in that position. It was a meaningful way to close out the leadership role with colleagues I have worked with over the past few years.

The highlight of our programming was the NMRT Orientation Session, which was exceptionally well attended, drawing over 200 members. **Dr. Maria McCauley**, the incoming ALA President, joined us as a speaker, which was a cool moment for new members.

As part of the orientation, I helped facilitate an interactive ALA trivia quiz, complete with Starbucks gift cards as prizes (conveniently redeemable at the Starbucks inside the convention center!), which kept the energy up and got attendees talking to one another. Members had so many questions the Q&A ran straight through the end of the two-hour session—ways to get involved with ALA, information on different committees, ways to navigate the conference city, questions about getting started with publishing, and more. We shared information about EndNotes, NMRT's peer-reviewed publication, which offers new librarians a venue for scholarly writing and opportunities to gain editorial and journal management experience.

We also held a social event that brought together NMRT members and members of the Retired Members Round Table, a cross-generational collaboration that I hope will continue in future years.

Poster Session: Pop Books

I presented a peer-reviewed poster session titled "Popular Books, Proven Results: Integrating Leisure Reading Collections and Readers' Advisory in Academic Libraries," which was competitively selected for the Outreach and Engagement Session. My co-author, **Amanda Lowe**, is the Marketing and Outreach Librarian at UAlbany. While the location of the session



(l-r) Jamie Fujiko Kurumaji, Mary Kamela, Morgan R. Brickey-Jones, Lauren Puzier, Cara M. Calabrese, Yuliana Aceves Nguyen



(l-r) Lauren Puzier with poster & engaging with a conference attendee

seemed off the beaten path, by 10:00 a.m. Saturday, it grew crowded and lively, and I was busy with conversations for the entire duration.

The project examines how academic libraries can build and promote recreational reading collections and offer readers' advisory services to support

student wellbeing and engagement, areas that have traditionally been associated more with public libraries than academic ones. At UAlbany, we have developed approaches to both collection development and readers' advisory that center the student experience, and the poster shared findings and strategies from that work.

The conversations the poster generated were among the most rewarding of the entire conference. Visitors ranged from library assistants, engagement librarians, branch librarians, to library directors and deans, and they had range of experiences and questions. Many were just beginning to build recreational reading collections and were looking for ideas on how to generate student interest or make the case to administrators for their value. Others had established collections but were wrestling with readers' advisory. Specifically, how do you keep up with recommendations and how do you meet students where they are? Walking away from those conversations, I felt that attendees left with concrete ideas they could bring back to their own libraries. One librarian even asked whether the work had been published, which was a first for me! It hasn't been published yet, but you can check out our [virtual poster](#) online!

Takeaways for SUNY Colleagues

I came away from this conference with a lot I want to share with colleagues, and I hope this report is helpful!

First, for anyone early in their career or new to presenting, ALA is an excellent place to start. Poster sessions in particular are a wonderfully accessible format. You get to share your work, repeat and refine your talking points, hear how others are tackling similar projects, and leave with new ideas. The conversations are collegial, easy, and reciprocal, and the whole time you are meeting new people from all over the country.

Second, NMRT is a genuinely welcoming entry point into ALA involvement. Volunteer opportunities are plentiful, committees are open to anyone who wants to participate, and involvement translates directly into CV-building experience in a supportive environment. We are always accepting volunteers, and I am happy to answer questions from anyone interested in getting involved! Please feel free to reach out to me or any NMRT Board Member directly.

Finally, for those working in, or curious about, recreational reading collections and readers' advisory in academic settings—this is an active and growing area of practice, and I met many librarians and library staff doing fascinating work in this space. If you are working on a project related to recreational reading in your academic library and are interested in connecting or sharing your experience, I would genuinely love to hear from you. Share your project with us (Lauren and Amanda), anytime!

Thank you again to the SUNYLA Professional Development Grants Subcommittee for your support of this experience!

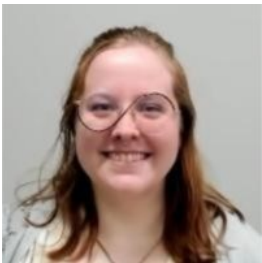


Lauren Puzier

GRANT REPORT: CONTINUING EDUCATION

Ashlie Morrison, Jefferson

I am grateful to have been a recent recipient of a SUNYLA Professional Development Grant. The funds allowed me to continue my education at the University at Buffalo, ultimately earning a Master's in Information and Library Science this past spring. My coursework included classes on databases, scholarly communications, archives, and cataloging—and taught me valuable skills that have helped me in my role as Assistant Librarian/Developmental Specialist at Jefferson Community College.



Ashlie Morrison

I hope to continue to contribute to the broader SUNYLA community as I serve as Secretary and pursue a full-time role as an academic librarian. Thanks SUNYLA, for your support of my pursuits.

Submit contributions for the February issue to April Davies
(daviesac@cobleskill.edu) no later than January 20, 2027.

SUNYLA promotes the professional development and collaboration of library personnel across SUNY in order to advance library service(s) to our campuses and the people of New York State.

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