



The Owl

"The owl of Minerva takes flight only as the dusk begins to fall."

— Hegel

Vol. 42, No. 2 ☛ 2026

Amy and Robin Bid You Farewell

The two of us began our collaboration as co-editors of *The Owl* with the [February 1997 issue](#) (Vol. 12, No. 1). The feature, written by Amy, introduced everyone to Hannelore Rader, the energetic library dynamo, who had just come on board to lead the libraries. Hannelore would run the libraries until her retirement at the end of 2009. Hannelore enthusiastically supported the efforts of those who served on *The Owl* Board and we appreciated her.

In co-editing *The Owl*, we have documented countless accomplishments of the people in the University Libraries, as well as the improvements to services and spaces for our patrons. We aimed to spotlight diversity in all its forms and tried to keep the newsletter relevant and fun. We mixed scholarly pieces with news about library parties and celebrations, as well as colleagues' travel adventures. And of course, there was also the April Fools "Headlines We'd Like to See" issue, which we loved doing, in collaboration with *The Owl* Board.

As departing co-editors, we wanted to say goodbye by picking a favorite article and a favorite year of *The Owl*. Our favorite article is "[J. Blaine Hudson: A Remembrance](#)" by Tom Owen, a fitting tribute to the wonderful Pan-African Studies professor who became the Dean of the College of Arts and Science. Blaine, who passed in 2013, was a diplomatic, skilled, and kind administrator who made an enormous difference at UofL. Blaine was also an ardent supporter of the libraries and wrote one of *The Owl's* best features ever: "[Economic Justice and Social Responsibility](#)" for the Black History Month issue in February 2007.

Picking our favorite year was difficult, but we chose 2002. At that time, *The Owl* came out ten times per calendar year. The topics in those ten issues ranged from "The Law Library's Salute to Black History" to "Viewers' Picks" to "Far from an Ordinary Man: Ralph Eugene Meatyard, 1925 – 1972" to "A Performance History of Shakespeare in Louisville, Kentucky, 1814 – 2002." While we are not listing every issue from 2002, each is worth your time.

We thank each person who has contributed in any way to *The Owl* during our time as co-editors. We appreciate the feature writers, the news gatherers, the photographers, and of course, the readers. We hope you will continue to support *The Owl* and its new co-editors, Kaelyn Harris and Tessa Withorn. We are thrilled that Kaelyn and Tessa are taking over, and we wish them the very best!

— Amy Purcell and Robin Harris

Pedal Power with Emma Beck

This May, our very own Emma Beck was the proud winner of the campus bike award for Bike Month! We asked Emma to reflect on biking to work and some recent developments in biking and sustainability on campus.

“[For the challenge] I biked 220 miles and biked to work 9 times (which was a lower number than usual because of a conference and Memorial Day). I started biking to work about a little over a year ago after I transitioned to a car-free household.

“I biked 220 miles and biked to work 9 times (which was a lower number than usual because of a conference and Memorial Day). I started biking to work about a little over a year ago after I transitioned to a car free household.

This summer I’ve also been frustrated by UofL’s new bike registration system. It is confusing and has been poorly communicated. I have had warnings zip tied to my bike about a system I knew nothing about. The registration stickers must be picked up at the parking office and cannot be mailed through campus mail or USPS like the parking passes. The parking website has no information on the system or a way to do it virtually. In addition, at least one colleague has been issued a \$10 ticket in the first 10 days, despite the warnings giving bike owners 14 days to register bikes. I am confused about how visitors to campus are supposed to register their bikes. Most of all, I am worried this will deter people from biking to campus.

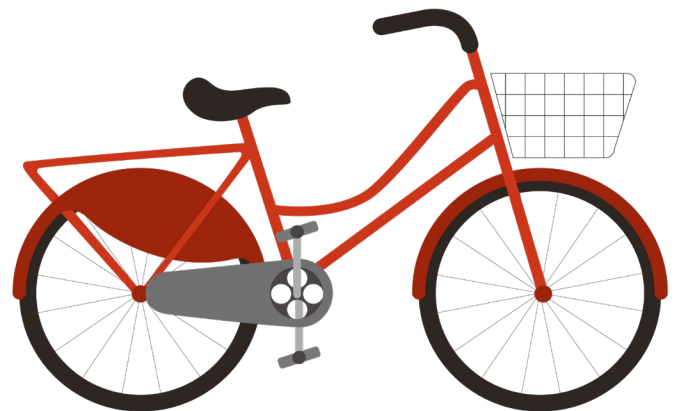
Overall, I love biking. Sharing the road with cars can be the scariest part but the more I bike, the more comfortable I become on the road and with cars. Studies have shown biking is not actually more dangerous than driving; you are just more vulnerable on a bike. The more I get to know Louisville by bike, the safer the routes I’m able to build. If you are considering getting into biking casually or seriously, the easiest way to adapt is to bike with someone familiar with the road. I’m happy to be that person if you need!

Highs:

- I live 3 miles from campus and have found my commute is significantly faster than when I drove. It takes me 15 minutes to bike to campus, door to door. When I drove, it was a 12 minute drive plus walking a 1/3 of a mile from the blue lot.
- Front door parking right outside the library! It’s even closer than the red lot
- Each day starts with exercise
- I save a lot of money
- I feel more connected to Louisville because I get to acknowledge other people in their yards, biking, or walking
- I also notice more things in the city, which leads to better appreciation for my community
- I’m not affected by I-65 being closed
- In fact, I feel safer without cars speeding to the on/off ramp of I-65

Lows:

- Drivers who create dangerous road conditions by cutting bikers off, not letting us cross in designated spots (like the roundabout), not looking before turning, or speeding
- Getting to work wet or sweaty. I wish there was a shower on campus more convenient than in the Music building.
- Poor biking infrastructure in Louisville. Few protected bike lanes and clear signs for bikers and drivers.



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Some resources to utilize are the [UofL Bikeshare](#) where faculty, staff, and students can borrow (for free!) bikes, helmets, and locks for any length of time. If you have a bike that needs some work, consider checking out Falls City Community Bike Works, where you can get help learning to repair your bike and don't pay for any labor. The more of us who bike, the more demand there is in the city, and the more infrastructure that must be built to meet our needs. I know I am far from the only person in the University Libraries who bikes to work, including the legendary Tom Owen, who still does a combination of biking and taking the TARC to work. As of July 1st, some of our Libraries' colleagues will start on the Sustainable Transportation Committee, a sub-committee of the Sustainability Counsel chaired by Anita Reilly Hall."

Let's congratulate Emma and all of our colleagues who enjoy biking to and from campus!



There and Back Again: Travel Tales from the Art Library

As summer unfolds and suitcases emerge from closets, the staff of the Bridwell Art Library are off on adventures.

Courtney Stine attended the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) annual conference in Montreal, QC in May! As chair of the Leadership Development Committee, Courtney organized the Leadership Institute preconference which featured a workshop on navigating burnout from Vesna Antwan Coaching. Courtney presented the 2025 George Wittenborn Memorial Book Award at the Convocation and Awards Ceremony. When not conferencing, Courtney brought her husband and two-year old daughter Ava, and they enjoyed walking around the city, exploring neighborhoods and playgrounds, and browsing local bookstores. The highlight of the trip was taking the metro to visit the Montreal Biodome: a walk-through replica of five ecosystems found in the Americas.



Capybaras lounging at the Montreal Biodome.



The Stine family on vacation!



Ava Stine (2) enjoying a playground in Montreal.

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Top: Two palm trees blow in the wind at sunset.

Right: String lights between palm trees illuminate a peaceful Jamaican beach.



Top: Mouthwatering ribs and catfish from Blues City Cafe, complete with fries, slaw, and hushpuppies.

Right: Justin Davis and his wife on Beale Street.



Lastly, Justin Davis and his wife took a road trip to a family reunion in Mississippi. On the way back to Louisville, they stopped overnight in Memphis, Tennessee. “Being that it was the first time in Memphis for both of us, we packed as much into 24 hours as we could. We dropped our bags at the hotel and walked over to Beale Street. Once on Beale Street, the sights of neon lights, sounds of the Blues, and the sweet aroma of barbecue filled the air. We decided to have dinner at Blues City Cafe where I had the best ribs and catfish. The next morning we got to see the ducks at The Peabody Hotel march from the elevator to the fountain which was an experience all its own.”

Greetings from Louisville: An Interview with Elizabeth Reilly

by Kevin Bailey; photos by Cassidy Meurer



If you've made your way down to the Archives and Special Collections Research Room on the lower level of Ekstrom Library recently, you've no doubt been greeted by a delightful splash of color emanating from the hall display case. ASC's newest exhibit, "Greetings from Louisville: Postcards from the Golden Age," showcases vibrant, historic postcards of Louisville landmarks and attractions from the first half of the 20th century. In an interview with Archives Assistant Kevin Bailey, exhibit curator and Archivist for Photo Archives Elizabeth Reilly shared the following thoughts about the exhibit.

Kevin Bailey (KB): What inspired you to create this exhibit?

Elizabeth Reilly (ER): [Rare Books Curator] Delinda [Buie] handed me a stack of vintage postcards that were donated with a group of rare books materials that she had just forgotten about, and so I needed to accession them into the photo archives. At the same time, we were having an Exhibits Group meeting and we were looking for ideas. I thought that these really colorful objects would make an interesting display for our hall case.

KB: Can you talk a bit about the process of creating the exhibit—from inception to completion?

ER: I had the idea for the topic, and the first thing I needed to do was to go and find all the relevant materials that I should look at when considering what to include in the exhibit. So, I go into our catalog—but in Photo Archives we have the register, which is in an Access database because not everything is in ArchivesSpace yet—and I did keyword searches for postcards because we've been collecting postcards for decades. Some of them come to us in big batches, hundreds of postcards like the ones Delinda handed me, and some of them come to us one or two postcards at a time, and each of those have a different accession number. Luckily, most of them were housed together in a couple of boxes in the photo stacks just described as postcards.

So, I pulled those boxes, and then I found all the stragglers that weren't in those boxes, or ones that made sense to go in there, and I made sure to change locations in our catalog records if I moved them. While doing this, I realized some organization needed to happen, so I was sidetracked a little bit by organizing the material. In those boxes, everything was organized by accession number and that's not helpful for a researcher. So, I'm reorganizing everything into topics and subjects and I'm working on creating a composite collection, or one catalog record with one accession number for all of these postcards in our collections.

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I'm actually going to combine one of our largest postcard collections, which is the R.G. Potter Collection, with the others, so that they're all grouped by subject or location or topic. It's just much easier for a researcher to look through them, so they don't have to look in multiple locations and it's easier for us to pull that material.

But for the exhibit itself, I decided what groupings I thought might be interesting for the display. I narrowed it down by just Louisville postcards because we do have postcards for other locations around the United States and the world, but I was working with primarily Louisville and Kentucky postcards. I pulled ones that I thought might be most relevant for us, the university, and people who might walk by and see it—the University of Louisville and Louisville locations like civic buildings, neighborhoods, businesses, hotels, things like that.



I ended up pulling huge stacks of postcards to consider for the exhibit. I wanted it to be visually interesting and not just a million tiny little postcards in the case, so I selected some to scan and print larger. For this I picked some especially colorful ones and some that were very detailed so that those details could be better discerned when enlarged, and then I asked [Imaging Manager] Sarah [Melloy] to print those for me. Sarah also helped me narrow down my selections to determine what would be on display. I had to leave out many postcards that I had initially selected because there wasn't going to be enough room for all of them. The limitations of how many I could fit in a frame and how many frames I could fit in the display case also helped me make decisions.

I mounted the postcards in the frames and then got everything printed from Sarah, all the enlargements and the text that I created, and I installed it and brought a few artifacts from home that I thought might fit to just make it a little more three-dimensional. I also went and found within some of our other ASC collections other sorts of touristy travel material that might be relevant because a lot of these postcards were sent by people who were visiting Louisville. Some of them were just sent within Louisville because that, too, was a common practice at the time. But for a lot of the postcards it was about travel to Louisville, or travel through Louisville, because Louisville was a stop on some of the L&N Railroad's destination lines. Since a lot of people came through Louisville that way, I pulled some brochures from the L&N Collection.



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KB: Because you showcase many different postcard styles—the divided back, the linen, the photochrome—were you drawn to a particular style?

ER: The “Greetings from,” really colorful, very retro cards are some of my favorites. They were made or popularized by one Chicago printing company that created this special process that allowed for the inks to dry faster and for the colors to remain brighter. Those textured cards are called linen postcards, and so when you see those “Greetings from” cards, they’re usually linen postcards. And so those were the three postcards that I had enlarged to the biggest size for the exhibit, “Greetings from Louisville” in three different styles, but they were all that sort of really brightly colored, kitschy design. I’ve always been interested in that style, and in fact I had a home project where I bought up some of those postcards on eBay and Etsy and then scanned and enlarged them and started making my own “Greetings from Louisville” and “Greetings from Indiana” magnets to resell.

Since doing this exhibit, I’m really interested in 1940s and 1950s Louisville motel postcards and restaurant postcards that can be really cute and kitschy, and I’ve purchased a couple on eBay that I’m going to end up donating to our postcard collection. In designing the exhibit, I learned what postcards we did and didn’t have, and if I found a particularly interesting postcard we were missing, I could add it to the collection.

KB: So, while creating this exhibit, you not only committed to redesigning how these postcards are accessible, but you’ve begun expanding our postcard collection, too?

ER: Yes, I’m building the collection up, making it more robust.

KB: And the ones you’ve been buying are promotional postcards for small businesses?



ER: Yeah, this was really a golden age of U.S. travel that corresponded with this postcard craze. People started taking the trains or driving across the country with the 1940s-50s car culture, and so a lot of hotels and motels would have postcards that people who were staying there could take for free and send them, and it was just promotional material for the hotel.

Actually, decades ago, I started a collection of my own of boring hotel postcards. It’s somewhere in my house. I just forgot about that until now. But they’re not Louisville-centric. This was back when I lived in California probably, and I think they’re from all over the country. They had to be from a certain era, like the 50s or 60s, and they had to be cute and kitschy but boring, like a picture of the hotel pool or something.

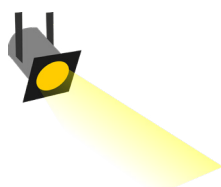
KB: I know you're a thrifter and a vintage junkie, so the subject of old postcards is very much within your wheelhouse, but were there some things that you learned for the first time while designing the exhibit?

ER: I learned a lot about just what a craze sending postcards was for a period in the United States, and that a lot of it was determined by postal regulations being opened up and acts of Congress and the Postmaster General and things like that. Originally, you could only have the address written on one side, and so the message had to be on the other side. But that changed and then that really opened up a lot of options for postcards.

It was also interesting some of the things I learned about Louisville by looking at these postcards, like that Iroquois Park was once named Jacob's Park, or that there used to be a big public swimming pool in Shelby Park, or that a lot of people used to do recreational swimming out in the West End in the river at Shawnee Park. So that's just basically what I love about looking at historic photos, not just postcards, but learning about your city and its history just through images. That's what got me interested in this field.



You can see the "Greetings from Louisville" exhibit on the lower level of Ekstrom Library in the East Wing hall display case through December.



New Employee Spotlight: Princess-Anana Malone

UofL position & department:

Hello~ I am a Library Assistant I and I work in the Kornhauser Health Sciences Library.

Hometown: Born and raised here in the River City.

Schools attended: I graduated from Waggener High School, and I'm currently attending Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC) for my AAS in Library Information Technology.

Places you've lived: I haven't lived anywhere else, sadly. I've visited a few places I wouldn't mind living at for a time!

Pets: I have four "bed hogs" (aka cats): Timothee, Blaze, Shorty, and Ainz.

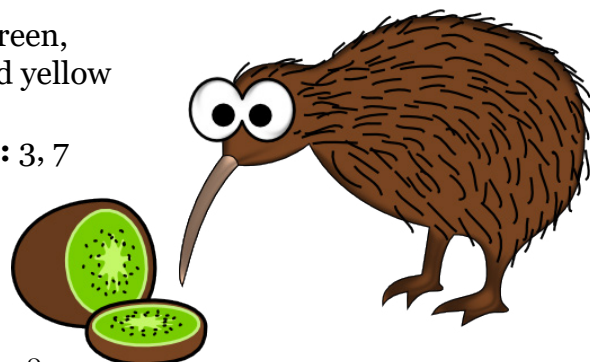
Favorite...

Food: KBBQ, French fries, chicken dishes, melons (watermelon, honeydew, cantaloupe)

Animals: Kiwi birds, cats, and weird looking animals make me happy. But I also enjoy animals in general. They're all fun little guys (even when they're big).

Colors: Green, orange, and yellow

Numbers: 3, 7





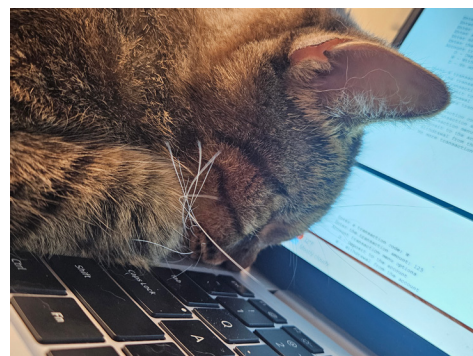
Books: *Witch Hat Atelier* (Kamome Shirahama), *My Sister the Serial Killer* (Oyinkan Braithwaite), *The MurderBot* series (Martha Wells), *Monk & Robot* series (Becky Chambers), *Last Murder at the End of the World* (Stuart Turton), *Blackward* (Lawrence Lindell).

Describe your perfect day.

I do love a day where I can be by myself and just wander around. I love going on mini adventures and taking my instant camera, being quiet, treating myself with a nice meal and a nap.

If you were stuck on a deserted island, what would you bring and why?

Not thinking about survival really, but I would bring this thing called a GeoDome. It is a clear dome, and I could have a little shelter while enjoying the place, though not long, since I'm not a survivalist.



Blaze diligently helps with homework.

Law Library: A New Leash on Life

Scott Campbell Recognized by Supreme Court Historical Society

Librarian Scott Campbell has received some attention for [his article](#) "Louis D. Brandeis on the Supreme Court: An Oral History." Scholar Todd Peppers interviewed him about the article in a [YouTube video](#) for the Supreme Court Historical Society. Then, on June 8, he and his co-author Lewis Paper were awarded the Hughes-Gossett Award, which the Supreme Court Historical Society gives every year to the authors of what they consider to be the best article published in the *Journal of Supreme Court History* in the previous year. The award consisted of a \$1,500 cash prize, a dinner at the Supreme Court Building, and a hearty handclasp from Chief Justice John Roberts. In addition, Campbell and Paper were interviewed about the article in the courtroom in the Supreme Court. Scott spent most of his time talking about Brandeis' grand-nephew, Charles Tachau, who was a graduate of the University's law school, as well as an Episcopalian priest and civil rights activist.

Ethan Almighty Visits the Law School

On Monday, April 6th, Electronic Legal Resources Librarian Bailey Eagin and the Environmental, Animal, and Land Law Society hosted canine animal rights advocate Ethan Almighty (and his owners) for a speaking engagement at the law school. The trio spoke about animal advocacy and how they worked to pass Ethan's Law in 2024, which made violent and intentional animal abuse prosecutable as a felony in the state of Kentucky.

UofL Magazine Staff Spotlight

You may notice a familiar face from the Law Library featured in the Spring/Summer 2026 edition of UofL Magazine. Circulation Manager Aiden Stivers was highlighted in the Staff Spotlight portion of the university publication. Check out the article in [the newest edition of UofL Magazine](#).



Ethan Almighty and Susan Mills (Let's Talk Kentucky). Photo from Wikimedia Commons.



New Employee Spotlight: Charles Rivera

UofL position & department:

Access and User Services Manager at the Music Library

Hometown: Louisville, Kentucky

Schools attended: duPont Manual/Youth Performing Arts School (YPAS), The New School

Places you've lived: Louisville, KY & New York City

Pets: No pets. Lots of plants.

Describe your perfect day.

I wake up rested before my alarm. Make coffee in my Moka pot. Read on my porch. Practice music. Go for a long walk. Possibly go fishing. Spend some time with folks I care about. Lots of side quests. The rest is a mystery.

If you were stuck on a deserted island, what would you bring and why? Probably books one and two of Bach's Well Tempered Clavier. There are many lifetimes worth of study in those scores. I'm almost always reading through and studying passages. There's always something new to see.

Anything else you'd like to share?

When I'm not at the Music Library I am also teaching music lessons and maintain an active presence in the community playing music. I also work at a 99 year old Hydroelectric dam on the Kentucky River on the weekends. There are no roads to get there so I have to travel via boat to get to the plant.



Favorite...

Food:

Kimchi

Animal:

Tardigrade

Color: Green

Number: 9

Books:

Any or all books by Samuel Beckett



Scenes from Campus



Summer heat: 1. Squirrel: 0.
Photo by Colten Hoot.

**Your
Goofy
Image
Here!**

**It's
Free
Real
Estate!**

RAIsing the Roof

New Member of the Detmering Family!

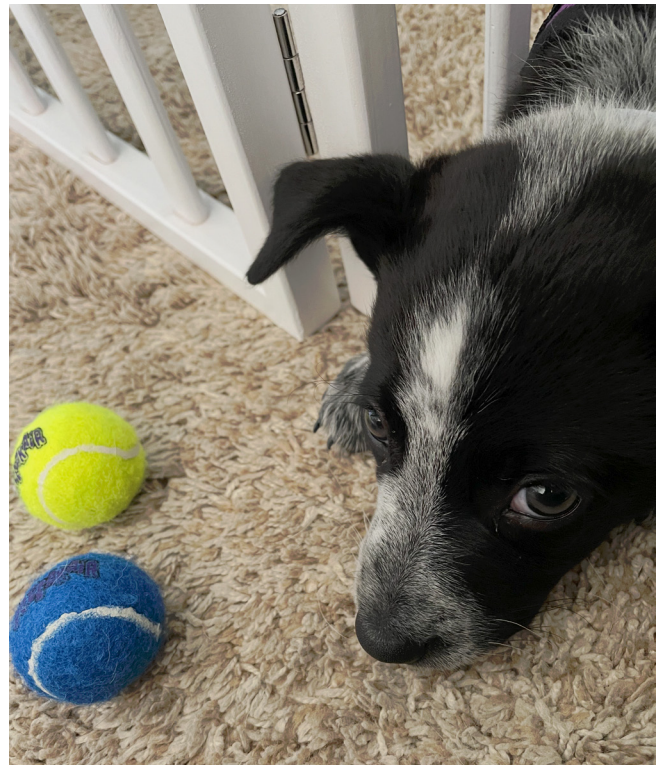
Rob Determing has a new dog, Starling. She is a wild blue heeler mix, and Rob's long-time man's-best-friend Pep is a bit annoyed.

University Libraries & Speed School Receive Grant for Engineering Scholars Program

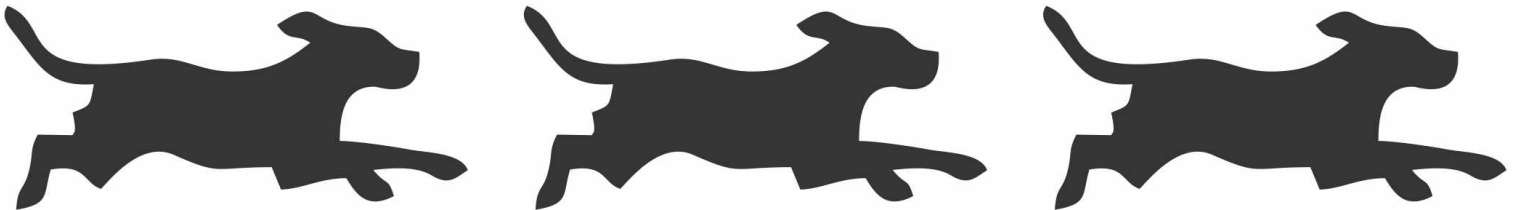
Kristina Bloch's Engineering Scholars program was recently selected for funding through the University of Louisville Women in Philanthropy program, one of only four projects across the university to receive full support this funding cycle. Backed by donor contributions, Women in Philanthropy invests in innovative initiatives that enhance student success and strengthen the university community.

Engineering Scholars is a collaborative partnership between the University Libraries and the J.B. Speed School of Engineering that helps undergraduate researchers develop leadership, communication, and professional skills while learning to effectively share the impact of their research. Recruitment launched this summer through the Speed School Summer Research Experience, and the inaugural cohort will begin this fall, culminating in a student Research Showcase.

The program team includes several members from University Libraries, including Engineering Librarian and Assistant Professor Kristina Bloch; Director of Communications & External Relations Cecilia Durbin; Assessment & Analytics Librarian and Associate Professor Anita Hall; Business Librarian and Associate Professor Alex Howard; and Speed School's Tevin Monroe, First-Year Student Experience & Engagement Coordinator for Engineering. Additional updates and opportunities to engage with the program will be shared as Engineering Scholars continues to grow.



Starling contemplates the meaning of tennis balls.



The Owl is an online publication by the University of Louisville Libraries, Louisville, KY 40292. *The Owl's* purpose is to promote communication among the various libraries in the UofL system. Find it on the web at owl.library.louisville.edu.

Co-Editors: Kaelyn Harris (layout) and Tessa Withorn (text).

Editorial Board: Cecilia Durbin, Matt Goldberg, Des Minton, Chris Poché, and Jessie Roth.

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Opinions expressed in *The Owl* are not necessarily those of the University Libraries or the University of Louisville.

Report from the OWL's Nest

As the new editors of *The Owl*, we [Kaelyn and Tessa] are excited to continue the long-standing tradition of bringing the Libraries together through this publication. In 1986, *The Ekspress* was typed on yellow paper and hand-delivered to every desk in the library. With quirky headlines and lively prose that reported on library picnics, shiny new technologies (now comically obsolete) like the Micromax 800 and IBM PCs, new policies for shelving large books on their spines (shout out to veteran Delinda Buie!), and “the funnies,” this colorful newsletter offers a glimpse into the past. Later evolving in 1991 into *The Owl*, the newsletter connects colleagues across libraries and departments. (How else would we know about the goings on at the Law Library?). We’ll be diving into [the archive](#) to bring back some of the vintage charm of *The Owl* (and inspiration for Y2K clip art).

Now, in 2026, chained to our desks with Microsoft Teams and ChatGPT, *The Owl* will live on as a quarterly PDF sent right to your email. But we need YOU to contribute your silly pet pics and jokes, your professional accomplishments, your lesser known library initiatives, and your day-in-a-life stories about what it means to be a library worker in the 21st century, not just for the sake of bragging or entertaining your colleagues but to document and preserve our communal culture and history for posterity (we are librarians after all).

Though many of you know us, we thought we’d share a bit more about ourselves. Kaelyn Harris is a Cataloging Librarian at Ekstrom Library, fresh from the depths of a graduate school library basement. Born and raised in Louisville, she is glad to be back and drinking the Louisville water. Her library-specific interests include cataloging in foreign languages, researching arsenical books, and finding ways to shoehorn Lord of the Rings into everything. She can be found roaming the Highlands in search of a good chai latte.

Tessa Withorn is the Science Librarian in the Research Assistance and Instruction department at Ekstrom Library. Some of you may remember Tessa as a student worker in the Distance Learning Library Services and RAI departments from 2013-2015. Though no scientist herself, she enjoys working one-on-one with students and faculty in her liaison areas (Physics is particularly wild), teaching information literacy workshops, and writing about a random assortment of library topics from poetry to AI. You might see her traversing Germantown (passing many library friends and neighbors along the way!) by bike or on foot. She likes to break it to people at parties that she rarely reads books on the job.

We’d like to thank Robin and Amy for their dedicated work as editors for the past 29 years, the news gatherers, and the editorial board who will continue to support and shape the direction of *The Owl*. While *The Owl* will continue to include department updates and featured articles, we’d love to hear from you! Is there a recurring column you think we should add (a blast from the past, notes from the desk, etc.)? Look out for our pestering emails soliciting content (and getting it on time).

Finally, thanks for reading to the very end. We’ll see you in the next one!

— Kaelyn Harris and Tessa Withorn

