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“Beyond the Stacks” Vol. 5, Issue 1, Summer/Fall 2024

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Beyond the Stacks

The DiMenna-Nyselius Library Newsletter

EXPANDING SKILLS: EMPOWERING STUDENTS FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS

By Tiara Arnold '08, Research Services Coordinator

When I started my position as a full-time research librarian at the end of the fall semester last year, I was not new to campus. I have happily been a part of our Stag community for a long time as a Fairfield alum, and former part-time librarian at the DiMenna-Nyselius Library for over ten years.

One of my goals in my new role is to help address the growing need for supporting students with effective strategies to manage their academic work. Strong study skills help students meet the challenges that come with an increased workload, complex material, and more independence. The Library aims to help students become better equipped with tools and techniques to organize their time, prioritize tasks, avoid procrastination, create better study and note taking habits, break down large assignments to more manageable pieces, and use active reading and listening skills (just to name a few).

Last semester I learned where students were struggling by conducting a survey and talking to students at both the North Benson and Bellarmine campuses as well as faculty, tutors, and staff. We developed programs to address what they needed.



Bellarmine Librarian, Ivelisse Maldonado, shares study skills materials with a new Fairfield Bellarmine student.

*Summer/Fall 2024
Volume 5, Issue 1*

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

I hope you enjoy our newest issue of Beyond the Stacks. Within these pages, you will meet our new staff, read about our annual Library Research Prize winners, and celebrate some of our accomplishments since the spring. We are especially proud to promote a new book on the University's history, 'Success on the Sound: A History of Fairfield University', with images from our collection and co-authored by University Archivist & Special Collections Librarian, Elise Bochinski (see p. 7). We hope to see you at an upcoming event to celebrate the legacy of Fairfield University, and of course to engage with our Library staff and resources.

With appreciation,
Christina S. McGowan, MSLIS
Dean of the Library &
University Librarian

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Meet Our New Staff



Brendan Aucoin
Head of Systems

Brendan Aucoin coordinates development, support, and maintenance of the library's computer systems. Previously, he was the Head of Access Services & Library Technology at SUNY Oneonta. He holds a BA in English from Bowling Green State University, an MA in English from the University of Vermont, and a Master's in Information Science from SUNY Albany. In this role he ensures access to resources and provides library systems' technology leadership and expertise. Brendan is pursuing his EdD in educational leadership through Fairfield's School of Education & Human Development. In his free time, he enjoys working on his vintage European car.



Lauren Busser
*Library Web &
Technology Lead*

Lauren Busser brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise in website design and coding. She has a BA in Literature and Creative Writing from Sarah Lawrence College and also holds a Master's in Integrated Digital Media from New York University's Tandon School of Engineering. Her previous work experience in creating compelling web content and optimizing user experiences has already proved valuable to her work here. One of Lauren's first big projects will be redesigning the Library's website to meet the needs of our Fairfield University community. Lauren enjoys crafting, reading, and writing - when she's not caring for four dogs and two cats!



Tiara Arnold
*Research Services
Coordinator*

Tiara Arnold '08 has extensive experience providing research assistance, teaching information literacy, and implementing student-focused academic programs, having worked here at our Library as a part-time research librarian, while also working at CT State Naugatuck Valley Community College in a similar role. Tiara earned her BA from Fairfield before obtaining a Master's in Library and Information Studies from Florida State University. In her role she offers study skills programming, serves as the coordinator of the Library Research Prize, the Librarian Partner to the School of Engineering & Computing, and the departments of Mathematics and Physics. In her spare time, Tiara likes to travel, run, and read.
Read about Tiara's study skills programming in our cover story.

Spotlighting Alumni Authors

The Library celebrates the scholarship and creative work by Fairfield University alumni who have written, illustrated, or edited books, or other content such as films. We now have a special designated area on the main level of the Library dedicated to Fairfield University alumni publications! Our librarians worked with partners across campus, including the Office of Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving within the Office of Advancement to identify authors and purchase copies of physical books for this new collection.

Alumni may fill out a form to have publications or works considered for addition to this collection:
<https://fairfield.libwizard.com/f/alumni>



Meg Moore '22 visited the Library during Alumni Weekend and saw that we have her new book, 'Bold, Brave, & Breathless', featured in our Alumni Collection.



Expanding Skills CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We have planned a strong slate of study skills programs and some have been implemented already, such as summer workshops for new Fairfield Bellarmine students and for nursing students at the Austin campus.

Here's what we have planned for this fall:

- Over 20 study skills workshops and drop-in events, offered both in-person and virtual.
- Evening 'Study Halls' to find motivation through connecting with peers.
- 'Study Buddy' check-ins for accountability.
- STEM-specific study tutorial and outreach.
- Incorporating tips within the First-Year Experience program.
- Increasing promotion of appointments with a librarian (first-years are encouraged to meet with their Personal Librarian assigned to their FYE section) for tips and to review our tutorials.
- Sharing information on our Instagram @fairfieldulib
- Faculty can request a librarian-led study skills lesson for students.

The Library aims to empower students with lifelong habits that will help them grow their confidence and skills. My colleagues and I will continue to look for ways to support students, which is one of the most rewarding aspects of working as a librarian, especially here at Fairfield.

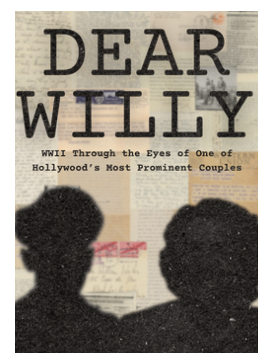
Save the Dates

William Wyler WWII Student Documentary Premiere
Oct. 8th, 7pm, Auditorium (& Wyler Exhibit on lower level)

Academic Commons Trick or Treat
Oct. 31st, 1-4pm drop-in, begins in Lobby

Stags Share Stories: Conversations That Connect Us
Nov. 20th, in-person and online

View details and all Library events at bit.ly/dnlevents



A few snapshots of *Summer*



Welcoming Alumni

Thanks to feedback from a spring webinar we hosted to connect with alumni, we opened the building during Alumni & Reunion Weekend.



Surprising Items to Borrow

We added a ukelele, under desk pedal bike, croquet set, and a museum pass to the Bruce Museum to our 'Library of Things' collection.



Showcasing Student Art

Rising sophomore, Lindsey Mohammed, displayed book art that she made in Prof. Yarrington's Book Arts course.



Professional Development

Attending, organizing, and presenting at conferences such as the American Library Association, ACRL-New England, and the Connecticut Academic Library Conference.



Mission & Service

Our Dean organized a Library Staff Retreat on our Jesuit mission and values with the Murphy Center for Ignation Spirituality and a service project with Campus Ministry.



Reading as a Community

100 faculty, staff, and students participated in our 5th annual Summer Reading Challenge. Virtual book talks, end of Challenge pizza party, and field trip to the Book Barn and Florence Griswold Museum were organized. The Winter Reading Challenge starts in December.

June - August Orientations

*“The Library is the place to be!”
- comment at first-year orientation*



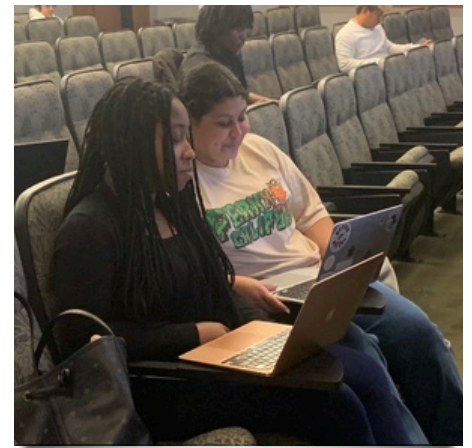
Austin

Research librarian Matt Schirano visited Fairfield University's Austin campus in June and offered workshops to students during their Nursing orientation.



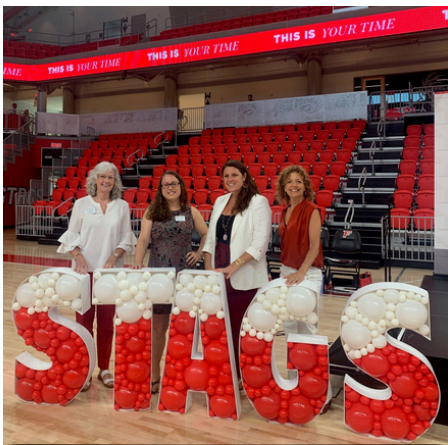
Bellarmine

The second cohort of Fairfield Bellarmine students met with librarians for a tour, academic schedule organization session, and study skills workshop.



Academic Immersion

Students visited the Library twice during their one-month program for a tour and a research class with a librarian for their Biology course.



First-Years

During the Class of 2028 orientation dates, we spoke on a parent & guardian academic resources panel (with colleagues from Career, Accessibility, & Global Fairfield) and met students and families at a Library and Academic Commons table at the Information Fair.



International Students

Undergrad and grad students from 20 countries were welcomed to campus with a Library tour, overview of resources, and presentation on Academic Integrity given by a librarian.



Faculty

In-person and virtual on-boarding for new faculty. Research librarians also send personal emails to connect with faculty about their teaching and research interests through the Faculty Partnership Program.

Library Research Prize

Kathleen Morton '24 and Brianna Kilker '24 were each awarded the 2024 Library Research Prize of \$1,000 and were honored at a reception at the end of the spring semester. The committee also presented \$250 to graduate student Bliss Kern '24 and undergraduate Karla Castro '24. Each of the students spoke about their projects and their research process, highlighting the Library's resources, services, and staff expertise.



Bliss Kern, Brianna Kilker, Kathleen Morton and Karla Castro with their certificates.

GRADUATE WINNER

Kathleen Morton '20 and '24 DNP

"The effect of the healthy sleep protocol on sleep quality in adults with inadequate sleep duration"
NURS 7687: DNP Immersion, Dr. Diana Mager

"This journey has instilled within me a profound appreciation for the iterative nature of research and the critical importance of methodological rigor," Morton said. She used all of the Library's health databases to do a comprehensive review of studies related to sleep quality and protocols. Morton identified an instrument in collaboration with a librarian, and then underwent the process to obtain the rights to use it in order to help her create her own study. At the podium, Morton expressed that she was "filled with a profound sense of gratitude for the School of Nursing and the Library."

UNDERGRADUATE WINNER

Brianna Kilker '24

"The relationship between natural disaster and gender inequality: The case of Haiti"
INTL 4999: Senior Capstone Seminar, Dr. Janie Leatherman

Dr. Leatherman talked about Kilker's impressive scope and dedication to her work, mentioning that she had found 60 sources and taken 79 pages of meticulous notes in order to produce her 40 page capstone paper. Kilker used many of the Library's resources and services to research the impact of Haiti's 2010 earthquake on women, and more broadly on inequality in Haiti. She used various databases from the Library's International Studies research guide to find articles, books, looked at grey literature online, and utilized the Library's Interlibrary Loan service to access articles and dissertations from other libraries. Kilker mentioned having two impactful research appointments with librarians to come up with key terms, locate sample literature reviews, and review citations, in addition to using the 24/7 research help chat box on the Library website.

*THE APPLICATION IS OPEN FOR THE 2025 LIBRARY RESEARCH PRIZE.
FAIRFIELD.EDU/LIBPRIZE*



Winners Brianna Kilker & Kathleen Morton



Bottom: Library Research Prize judges with President Nemece, Dean McGowan, and all Library Research Prize winners and honorable mentions.

New Fairfield U Publication: Success on the Sound

University Archivist & Special Collections Librarian Elise Bochinski co-authored Success on the Sound: a History of Fairfield University with emeritus faculty, Dr. Paul Lakeland and Dr. Kurt Schlichting.

What is the book *Success on the Sound* about?

The book explores Fairfield University's evolution from its founding in 1942 as an all-boys commuter prep school to its current status as a prestigious undergraduate university with a growing focus on graduate and professional success. It covers the early struggles to achieve financial stability and academic status, the pivotal 1970 decision to admit women (with the first full-time undergraduate class of women celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2024!), and how the Jesuit mission continues to influence the institution to this day.

What was the best part about this project?

Getting to know my co-authors Paul Lakeland and Kurt Schlichting was the best part of the project. I got to see some aspects of the University from a faculty perspective, and they were always smart and fun to talk to, so our meetings were enjoyable as well as productive. Also working closely with the design team was interesting and educational. I learned a lot about how much work goes into creating a published book!

What was the biggest challenge?

Finding time to write. I followed my co-author Paul Lakeland's advice to get up very early and write for a couple hours a day, before the usual distractions of work and family set in.

How important were the University Archives for your research?

The University Archives was crucial to the project, especially for photographs. Our collections were strongest in terms of documents from the 1960s onward. For example, depositions from *Tilton v. Richardson*, a crucial court case that helped to determine whether or not the university could qualify for federal funding to expand the campus, reside with us and so were easy to access. For earlier records, we used the collections housed at the Jesuit Archives and History Center in St. Louis.

What do you think Fairfield's next chapter will be?

The first 75+ years were about solidifying Fairfield as a top-notch undergraduate institution. Looking ahead, the next 75 years will be about expanding our impact in graduate and professional fields with programs that offer real, lifelong benefits. I also hope we continue to honor our Jesuit mission and heritage, a core part of our identity, with each new generation of students. And, not surprisingly as an archivist, I hope the University continues to highlight and preserve its rich history as we move boldly into the future.

You can learn more about Fairfield University's history and explore our digital collections at: <https://librarybestbets.fairfield.edu/fflduhistory>



*Elise Bochinski holds a copy of *Success on the Sound* which is available at the Library or for purchase through the Fairfield University Store.*

“ Why I Give....”

“As I drove to a recent tour of the DiMenna-Nyselius Library I expected a pleasant morning and got so much more. The staff showed me an innovative variety of services and collections, both academic and social, available to Fairfield students. I left convinced that this top notch library deserves the support of every alum who ever passed through its doors.”

Ellen Stipo '91, MA'06



Ellen Stipo (left) tours the University Archives at the DiMenna-Nyselius Library with Elise Bochinski, the University Archivist.



Make a Gift to the Library
fairfield.edu/library/about/give



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Cover: First-year students walking on path in front of the Library during June orientation. Photo by Lisa Thornell