



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
University Libraries

# Founders

**T Y P E**

News from NIU Libraries  
Summer 2023



From 1942 until the 1960s, Spring Commencement was held at the lagoon. The growth of our university brought an end to this tradition.

# Founders



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## From the Desk of Dean Barnhart

*Hello and happy summer from the NIU Libraries!*

*We hope you enjoy reading more about the activities of the NIU Libraries. As you can tell from the stories in this edition of our newsletter, it has been a busy year, especially during the spring semester. Some of our featured stories underscore the important work that our University Libraries undertake to keep education affordable, both through the Course Materials Affordability Task Force and through open educational resources. We also highlight new staff and faculty, all of whom hit the ground running with projects to support student and faculty success. Finally, we encourage you to put upcoming library events on your calendar. Speaking of calendars, please save room on your refrigerator for our 2024 calendars which will go on sale this coming fall.*



Fred D. Barnhart  
Dean, NIU Libraries

*Wishing you a relaxing summer,*

*Fred Barnhart  
Dean, NIU Libraries*

## Course Materials Affordability Task Force

Departments recognized for leading the way with affordable course materials

This spring, NIU's [Course Materials Affordability Task Force](#) (CMAT) presented the inaugural [Affordable Course Materials \(ACM\) Department Awards](#). These awards are part of our task force's [Leading Impact Program](#) which supports and recognizes academic departments and individual faculty for their adoption of Open Educational Resources (OER) and low-cost materials in courses.

In 2022, [affordable course materials designators](#) — for zero cost or low cost (\$40 or less) — were implemented in MyNIU so that students can search for and filter courses with affordable materials (defined as required books, textbooks, ebooks, streaming video, CDs, or DVDs) at the time of registration. CMAT used these course attributes to identify the departments offering the highest percentage of course sections with affordable course materials. The top three departments for the 2022-2023 academic year are:

- **Departmental Achievement Award:** Department of Philosophy with 73% of their courses designated as low or zero cost.
- **Departmental Honorable Mention Award:** College of Business UBUS courses with 65% of their courses designated as low or zero cost.
- **Departmental Outstanding Effort Award:** Department of English with 64% of their courses designated as low or zero cost.

Providing affordable course materials is an important step toward student success and supporting equitable teaching practices. Robert Brinkman, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, noted, "I am so proud of the Departments of Philosophy and English for their efforts to provide affordable class materials for our students. We do our best to try to help students succeed and these departments are helping to make it so that our Huskies never quit due to not being able to afford textbooks."

"The College of Business faculty and staff are very proud of offering UBUS courses to best arm our students with career preparation and stronger competence to succeed in their future careers. Most UBUS courses adopt 'low cost or zero cost textbooks' for learning and still offer superior learning by embracing many impactful experiential learning activities and practices. This award will encourage our faculty and staff further to find

more innovative and transformative 'Huskie' business education at NIU," said Daewoo Park, Ph.D., associate dean for Academic Programs and Student Success, College of Business.

In addition to receiving a plaque and digital badge, the ACM Department Awards come with monetary prizes funded by University Libraries. Winning departments were presented their awards at college senate meetings.

Thousands of students are already benefitting from these efforts, and these departments' continuing commitment will mean thousands more will benefit in the future.



2023 awards presented to College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Department of Philosophy and Department of English.



2023 award presented to College of Business.

For more information about the ACM designators in MyNIU and the Leading Impact Program, visit the [Open Education website](#)

## Faculty Achievements

### Teaching Photography: Critical Literacies for Creative Practice

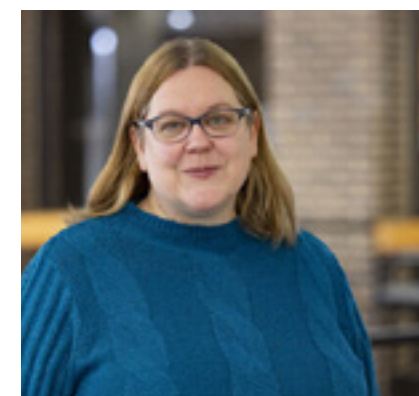
Associate Professor Larissa Garcia's sabbatical has been approved by the NIU board of trustees for fall 2023. Garcia's project summary follows: "Teaching Photography: Critical Literacies for Creative Practice" will be a curriculum guide with ancillary materials for college-level photography classes. It compiles readings, assignments, lesson plans, and assessments that scaffold learning, and incorporate information and visual literacy instruction to foster critical thinking for eight common courses/topics in a photography program. When the book is completed, it will serve as a model for studio art education and is intended for use by photography educators.



### Illinois SCOERs: Support for the Creation of Open Educational Resources

Associate Professor Larissa Garcia has been awarded an Illinois SCOERs: Support for the Creation of Open Educational Resources subgrant of \$65,457.15, funded by CARLI's Open Textbooks Pilot Grant received from the Fund for the Improvement of Post-secondary Education (FIPSE) and the U.S. Department of Education, for her project, Teaching "Photography: Critical Literacies for Creative Practice." Garcia and Jessica Labatte, School of Art and Design, will serve as co-principal investigators for this grant which will be used to create an OER curriculum guide and student resource for photography.

### Systematic Review Services Specialization (SRSS)



Congratulations to Health Sciences Librarian Betsy Sterner for earning the basic Systematic Review Services Specialization (SRSS) certificate from the Medical Library Association. Earning the SRSS certificate demonstrates Sterner's use of a range of information retrieval and management knowledge and skills to support users and researchers, and an understanding of established guidelines, best practices, ethical synthesis practices, and transparent reporting in the service of high-quality, reproducible scientific and biomedical research.

### Association of College and University Educators (ACUE)

Assistant Professor Alissa Droog received the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) credential in Effective College Instruction and was recognized as an ACUE Distinguished Teaching Scholar at NIU. Droog demonstrated her commitment to teaching excellence and to ensuring that our students receive the best education possible by completing ACUE's rigorous, 25-module Effective Teaching Practices course. As part of this course, faculty implemented evidence-based teaching practices in their courses. These teaching practices are proven to help students learn more, stay engaged, graduate in higher numbers, and close equity gaps.



## James B. Pick and Rosalyn Laudati Southeast Asia Fellow selected

The NIU Libraries have selected Visisya Pinthongvijayakul, Ph. D. as the recipient of the first Pick/Laudati Southeast Asia Fellowship. This award uses funds from the Pick/Laudati library endowment for the recipient to visit the NIU Libraries for two weeks and conduct research using our unique Southeast Asia collections. Dr. Pinthongvijayakul is a faculty member at Chandrakasem Rajabhat University in Bangkok, Thailand, and holds a Ph.D. in anthropology from the Australian National University. He is also a Georg Forster Research Fellow at Heidelberg University in Germany. His research project for his fellowship is “Human-Fish Relations: Interspecies Environment and Health around a Hydropower Project in Northeast Thailand” and focuses on dam and water management projects in the Khon Kaen province, specifically Ubonrat Dam and the Nam Pong Project. He has conducted ethnographic fieldwork in this area. While at NIU, he will use many of our rare materials related to water management in Thailand published by agencies like USAID and UNESCO for historical research. He will also present a talk as part of our NIU Center for Southeast Asian Studies lecture series. Dr. Pinthongvijayakul will be at NIU in October 2023 and hopes to also participate in the Council on Thai Studies Annual meeting while he is here.



## New, award-winning diverse children’s literature collection on reserve at Founders

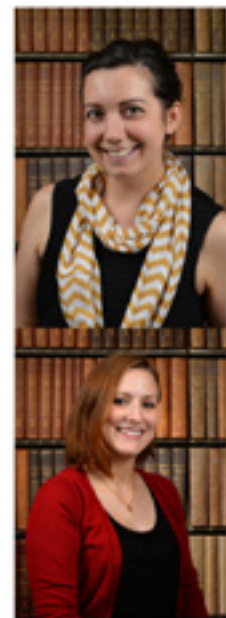
Thanks to a request from the College of Education, Founders Memorial Library is adding award-winning children’s literature to our reserve collection. Funded by a Libraries DEI Collection Fund grant, this collection will include picture books that have won or were honored in the last 10 years for the following awards: [Coretta Scott King Awards](#), [Pura Belpré Awards](#), and the [Mike Morgan and Larry Romans Children’s and Young Adult Literature Award \(Stonewall\)](#). A huge thank you to Dee Anna Phares, Sara Richter, Ron Barshinger, and all the folks in Technical Services for making this project a reality.



## Library Website Accessibility

Our library has made nearly 20 small but impactful changes to NIU Libraries website following usability testing with neurodiverse students. This grant-funded project was led by Assistant Professor and Student Success Librarian Kimberly Shotick and Associate Professor and STEM Librarian Kelly Getz from Eastern Michigan University (EMU). Neurodiversity refers to brain differences that impact the experiences and expressions of individuals. Neurodivergent individuals include those who are autistic, have ADHD, dyslexia, and other conditions. Neurodiversity research assigns value to the experiences and preferences of individuals with a wide array of brain differences.

Following user testing with 10 neurodiverse students across NIU and EMU, the NIU Libraries' Website Committee met with Shotick to learn the areas of the library's website that were sticking points for the students, who were asked to complete four tasks using the library's website. The committee, co-chaired by Assistant Professor Alissa Droog and Associate Professor Mary Burns, immediately made 14 changes as a result, and continue to make improvements informed by this research. This supplements the committee's other work that aims to continually improve the library's website which serves as an entry point to research and library services.



**Kimberly  
Shotick**  
Northern  
Illinois  
University

**Kelly Getz**  
Eastern  
Michigan  
University

## Welcome to Our Team!

### New Faculty:

#### **Elizabeth (Betsy) Sterner, Health Sciences and Science Librarian**

Sterner, assistant professor in the Research and Instruction Department of the University Libraries, earned an MLIS from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and a M.S. degree in biological sciences from NIU. She recently completed MLA's Systematic Review Services Specialization to support her work and research related to systematic reviews. Since arriving at NIU, she published an article in Science & Technology Libraries and co-authored a systematic review published in Biological Research for Nursing. As a health sciences librarian, Sterner works closely with CHHS faculty and students through instruction, consultations, and developing and maintaining our electronic and physical collections.

### New Staff:

#### **Jessica Cima, Curator, Pick Museum of Anthropology**

Cima holds an M.A. degree in museology, a graduate certificate in feminist studies, and a B.A. degree in anthropology. She has conducted archaeological field work on historic and prehistoric sites along the Ohio River Valley. Her research includes representation and agency in museum exhibits and collections, as well as archaeology. Her museum work focuses on community engagement and diverse representations of cultural history. In June, she begins working with the Student Association Art Collection at the library. She is also an avid gardener and forager.

#### **Stephanie Henricks, Access and Discovery Coordinator**

Henricks has a B.F.A. degree in illustration from NIU and is currently three classes away from her MLIS degree at UWM. She has over 20 years of library experience, and started her library journey as a library assistant at the (very snowbird busy) Jacaranda Public Library in Venice, Florida. She worked her way up to circulation lead then moved back to Illinois and worked at Kishwaukee College Library as their technical services person. She enjoys working with the public and students. She loves creative, artsy projects, and has done programming for library craft workshops. She used to work as an assistant manager for a florist and managed clothing stores. Early in her life, she did graphic design for a printing company. She enjoys reading, antiquing, art/craft shows, container gardening, cookie baking, and wants to do more traveling.

#### **Brock McCord, Acquisitions Library Specialist**

McCord holds an M.A. degree in history, with certificates in public history, medieval studies, and European Studies. During his studies, his research interests include public memory and the role of historical fiction in shaping cultural attitudes. While in the master's program at NIU, he worked in the library as a graduate assistant with the Illinois Regional Archives Depository and the Regional History Center. He began work as acquisitions library specialist with Technical Services in November 2022. In his free time he enjoys nature and architectural photography.

#### **Maureen Stevens, Administration and Outreach Support Specialist**

Stevens's background is in administration and finance and has worked in the public sector, previously in parks and recreation, for nearly 10 years. Stevens started at NIU in March as the Administration and Outreach Support Specialist for the University Libraries. She is an avid reader and loves to spend her free time with family and friends.

## Summer Library Hours

### Founders Library Building Hours:

- **Interim Sessions 1 & 2 (May 15-June 19, Aug. 14-27)**
  - Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
  - Saturday and Sunday Closed
- **Summer Session (June 20-Aug. 13)**
  - Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
  - Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
  - Saturday 1 to 5 p.m.
  - Sunday Closed
- **Holidays:**
  - Monday, May 29 Closed
  - Thursday, June 8 Closed (Library Retreat)
  - Monday, June 19 Closed
  - Monday, July 3 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
  - Tuesday, July 4 Closed

### Circulation

- **Interim Sessions 1 & 2 (May 15-June 19, Aug. 14-27)**
  - Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
  - Saturday and Sunday Closed
- **Summer Session (June 20-Aug. 13)**
  - Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
  - Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
  - Saturday 1 to 5 p.m.
  - Sunday Closed

### Faraday

- Closed

### Music Library

- Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to noon; 1 to 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday Closed

## Orientation and First Year Programs

Date	Format
Tuesday, May 30, 2023	In Person
Friday, June 2, 2023	In Person
Wednesday, June 7, 2023	In Person
Monday, June 12, 2023	In Person
Thursday, June 15, 2023	Virtual
Tuesday, June 20, 2023	In Person
Thursday, June 22, 2023	In Person
Monday, June 26, 2023	In Person
Friday, June 30, 2023	In Person
Monday, July 10, 2023	Virtual
Thursday, July 13, 2023	In Person
Monday, July 24, 2023	In Person

### Research Help Desk

- **Virtual Chat with a Librarian**  
Interim Sessions 1 and 2 (May 15-June 19, Aug. 14-27)
  - Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
  - Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
  - Saturday and Sunday Closed
- **Summer Session (June 20-Aug. 13)**
  - Monday-Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
  - Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
  - Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
  - Saturday and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.
- **In-Person**  
Interim Sessions 1 and 2 (May 15-June 19, Aug. 14-27)
  - Virtual only (see above)
- **Summer Session (June 20-Aug. 13)**
  - Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
  - Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

[\\*schedules may vary - full hours available here](#)

### Special Collections and Archives

- **May 15-Aug. 25**  
RBSC Reading Room and RHCUA Office will be open to visitors by appointment only. Visitors can schedule an appointment by emailing [rbsc@niu.edu](mailto:rbsc@niu.edu) or [rhuca@niu.edu](mailto:rhuca@niu.edu), or by calling 815-753-9392.

## Upcoming Library Events

### Miniature Golf Event Coming to Founders

- **September 22 and 23**

Join us at Founders Memorial Library during Family Weekend at NIU for a mini-golf course throughout the library. Stay tuned for more details.

### History of the Book Seminar Series

- **Oct. 5, 2023** Emily Coccia, (English) Same Sex Desire in 19th-century Dime Novels, 4 to 5:30 p.m.
- **Nov. 2, 2023**, Michael Barnes, (Art & Design) on Lithography and Dee Anna Phares, (Libraries) Bibliomania, noon to 1 p.m.
- **Feb. 1, 2024**, Laura Wasowicz (Librarianship), Historic Children's Voices in the 19th century. 4 to 5:30 p.m.
- **March 7, 2024**, Chris Nissen, Giulia Bigolina, 16th-century Italian Woman, Noon to 1 p.m.
- **April 4, 2024**, Hao Phan, Materials in the Collection, Noon to 1 p.m.

### Local History Workshop

- **August 2023** Stay tuned for more details.

### Week of Welcome

- **Aug. 20-26, 2023** Stay tuned for more details.



# 2023 Friends of Northern Illinois University Libraries

We want to thank the following Friends of the NIU Libraries for their generosity during the past year. If you would like to join the Friends or donate to support the NIU Libraries, please visit the Friends of the NIU Libraries page at <https://library.niu.edu/university-libraries/give/friends/index.shtml>

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