Spring/Summer 2019 Newsletter

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Saturday afternoon during finals week. Outside, it's early summer: temperatures are pushing 90. Inside, in BookLab, the room is filled with soft sounds: the swhoosh-scrape of the paper cutter; the gentle rumble of the screw press; the swishing of sheets; the scratch of a pen against ruler; the whirl of the fan. Students from the graduate BookLab course are in the final push on their semester projects. Despite the availability of the seminar paper and other options, every one of them has opted to make a book object of some kind.

Their work caps a busy semester for BookLab, including our first forays into public programming for the department and beyond. In February, with Comparative Literature and the CLCS, alongside co-sponsors Art History, DCC, and Pyramid Atlantic, we organized a well-attended inaugural symposium, Unnam’d Forms: Perspectives on the Post-Digital Book, which brought together the University of Pennsylvania’s Whitney Trettien and the type designer and printer Russell Maret. This combination of a scholar and a creative practitioner is emblematic of the kind of exchanges BookLab seeks to foster. Later in the semester we held a festive book launch for Dr. Sarah Werner’s Studying Early Printed Books, and a wonderfully energizing Zine-making workshop featuring community members from La Horchata zine and co-sponsored with Spanish and Portuguese. We’ve been busy in other ways too: For the campus’s Social Justice Day, we...
teamed with graduate students in the department to print several hundred stickers in support of trans rights; we contributed custom bookmarks to the *Genealogies and Futures of Black Aesthetics* conference; and on Maryland Day we took the press outside to Tawes plaza to print bookmarks with the many visitors to the English Department’s table.

But back to the student projects. We will be producing BookLab’s first catalog over the summer where they will be presented in the fullness they deserve. Suffice to say that **none** of the students whose work you see pictured here had any prior printing or bookmaking experience to speak of. Their individual books use a combination of letterpress type, text layouts done with Adobe InDesign, various forms of binding (including pamphlet stitch and Coptic), and other features, from homemade iron gall ink to gold leaf. Collectively, their work demonstrates how our students’ critical and creative gifts can be called upon to model alternative forms of scholarly production.

In the fall, with the University Libraries, we will co-host the national meeting of the American Printing History Association, whose theme this year is diversity in American printing history; the conference will be free to those with UMD affiliations and feature a keynote from Princeton’s Kinohi Nishikawa (author of *Street Players: Black Pulp Fiction and the Making of a Literary Underground*). We also look forward to fall collaborations with classes being taught by Amanda Bailey, Maud Casey, Tita Chico, and Melanie Kill.

Watch Twitter (@umd_booklab) for our occasional open summer hours, and we’ll see everyone back in the fall!
Book work by Adam Jones, Sarah Lind, Maggie Gill, and Mal Haselberger with (bottom) Kathleen Buckley, Robert Harris, and Valentina Rosales.

Upcoming Events
(On Campus and Beyond)

Please note: some events require pre-registration.

- **Animal Tales** at The Walters Art Museum, Baltimore, MD (*ongoing from May 18, 2019*)
- **Letterpress Poster Workshop** at Typecase Industries, Washington DC NW (Saturday, June 22, 2019 from 11:00am–3:00pm)
- **Bookbinding I Workshop** at Pyramid Atlantic, Hyattsville, MD (Sunday, June 30, from 12:00pm–6:00pm)
- **DC Art Book Fair** at the National Museum for Women in the Arts Great Hall (Sunday, July 7, 2019 from 12:00pm–5:00pm)
- **Power in My Hand: Women Poets, Women Artists, and Social Change** at the National

Follow Us

Summer 2019 Hours
(Tawes 3248)

See our social media for open hours; also by appointment.

Twitter: @umd_booklab
Instagram: @umd_booklab
Email: booklab@umd.edu
www.english.umd.edu/booklab

Prepare for your visit: find all of our books in our comprehensive
LibraryThing Catalog
Museum for Women in the Arts Library *(ongoing from August 30, 2019)*

- **Ella's Books: Volumes from the Library of Ella Fitzgerald** at the National Museum for African American History and Culture *(ongoing)*
- **Lancaster Printers Fair** at North Queen Street, Lancaster, PA (Friday and Saturday, September 20 & 21, 2019--for planning ahead!)

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**Announcing GotSort**

We are pleased to announce our first BookLab code, written by Kari Kraus. GotSort allows you to paste or insert text and then have the program calculate the number of individual pieces of type (sorts) you will need to compose it in letterpress. [Go here to run GotSort.](#)

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**New on our shelves!**

The BookLab Newsletter is distributed by BookLab, located within the College of Arts and Humanities' Department of English. The newsletter is produced by Matthew Kirschenbaum, Kari Kraus, Mal Haselberger, and Britt Starr.

If you have announcements, events, or ideas that you'd like to bring to our attention, please direct queries and comments to booklab@umd.edu.

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**Special thanks to Karen Nelson and Lexi Swick for our BookLab logos**

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