

# INSIDE THE TRIBUTARY

CAROLINE AVERITT

LIFE EDITOR

In a small office with an even smaller staff, a few students at Arkansas State University are working to curate a collection of short stories, poetry, artwork and more all by A-State students.

The Tributary is A-State's yearly literary magazine designed to give a platform for students to share their creativity.

Jessica Tran, a graduate student studying English from Crossett, Arkansas, serves as editor-in-chief of the Tributary.

She said there are a variety of submissions to the magazine. The Tributary mostly consists of fiction short stories and poetry, but also accepts submissions in short memoirs, flash fiction, paintings, sketches, graphic designs and even photographs of sculptures.

"We try not to limit anyone," Tran said, "The point of a college publication is to have more freedom to submit things and accept things, so we try to accept as much as we can."

Kaylee "Lee" Pence, a senior English major from Rector, Arkansas, published a piece in last year's edition and had a piece accepted for this year's publication. "I've always wanted to publish my work. It's been a lifelong dream of mine. The Tributary seemed like a great first way to do so," Pence said. "Publishing with the Tributary is a great way to build your own community with others, as well as growing the number of student publishers at the Tributary."

Tran said the Tributary has struggled with marketing in the past. To promote the magazine, the staff began promoting it on Instagram and got a page on the A-State website last year.

"It's our own little literary magazine; we need to help boost it up and get it out there," Pence said.

The staff consists of Tran, another editor and a few interns.

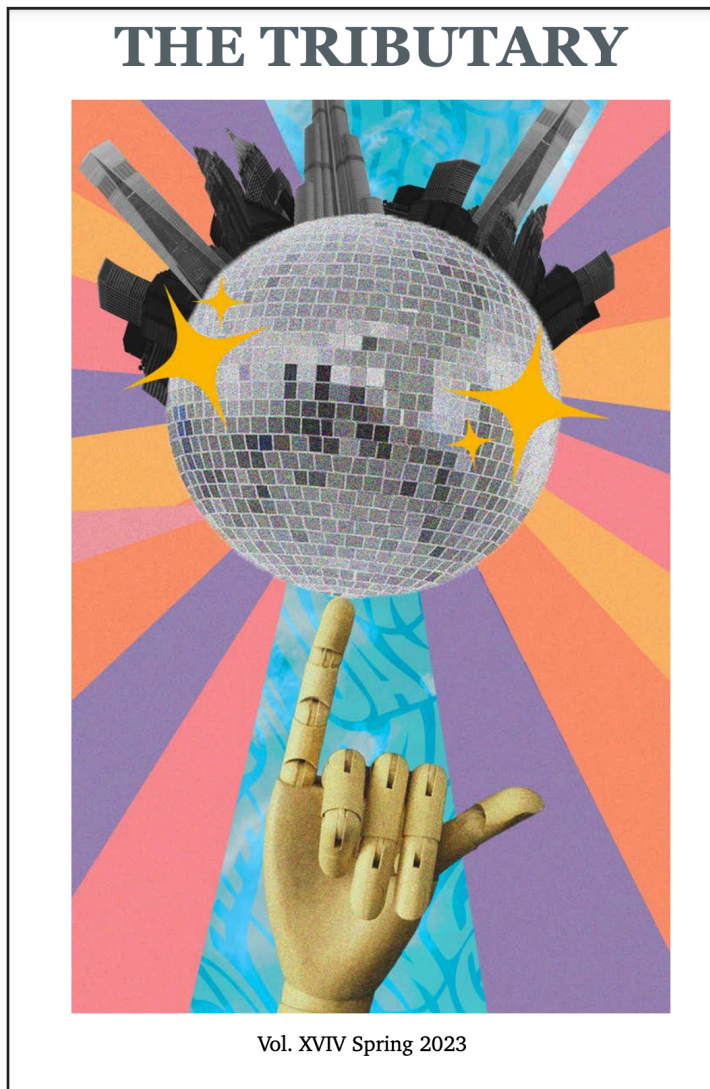
Montana Shelley, a junior English major from Fisher, Arkansas, works as one of the interns. She started interning with the Tributary for her writing studies minor but said she chose it because of its value of student work.

"I mainly work in outreach, so social media posts and tabling for events. (Interns) also reach out to faculty to ensure that students know about the Tributary and our submission deadlines," Shelley said.

Occasionally, the Tributary hosts events and readings on campus. Tran said their previous event celebrated Valentine's Day. The staff asked people to write love letters to their pets, partners, friends or even themselves. A few of those were submitted and will be in this year's edition.

Next, the Tributary will host a reading at the Delta Symposium from 6-6:45 p.m. April 4 in Room 156 of the A-State Museum.

"You can kind of think of that as a sneak peek of what's about to be released," Tran said. "It's based on whoever wants to participate and have their work read in their voice. It's also a chance to meet the



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

The cover of last year's edition of the Tributary.

contributors if you'd like."

In years past, the Tributary was a print-only publication. However, last year the magazine moved online and can be found as a PDF on the A-State website or in Apple Books for free.

This year, the magazine plans to have an online version, but Tran said she hopes to have a print version as well. "I think us as English

majors, especially on the team, we appreciate a print copy just as much as everyone and it means something for the authors to also have their work in their hands. We really want to have both available because, with the digital, it's accessible," Tran said.

Printing can also be an issue due to the Tributary's limited budget, she said. "It's expensive to print,



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA TRAN  
(From left) Kerri Bennett, Ph.D., faculty adviser, Jessica Tran, editor-in-chief, and Kristen Silver, editor, at the Tributary: Author's Reading.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JESSICA TRAN  
Emily Peters participating in the author reading. She contributed two poems, "Are You Alive?" and "Consequences," to the 2023 edition.

and we kind of have to plan out how many submissions we can accept because we can only try and get so much money from SGA," Tran said.

Currently, there is no set date for publication, but Tran said the Tributary

will likely be published the week before graduation.

"I just wish everybody knew that if they need a creative outlet, we're here for them," Tran said.

To submit to the Tributary, email submissions to [astatetributary@gmail.com](mailto:astatetributary@gmail.com).

## Waterparks takes over Dallas in magnetic performance

COLUMN BY  
RACHEL RUDD

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Pop-rock band Waterparks performed for a sold-out crowd at the House of Blues in the Dallas Arts District, and I was lucky enough to go with former Herald editor-in-chief Rebecca Robinson.

Not only was this my first Waterparks concert, but my first concert ever.

The show started at 7 p.m., with Waterparks coming on stage around 9 p.m. Bands Pollyanna and Loveless opened, but the two hours between them and waiting for Waterparks seemed to drag on and on.

Neither band had particularly fantastic music and their covers of far better songs, like Pollyanna's version of "Judah" by Lady Gaga or Loveless's rendition of "Running Up That Hill" by Kate Bush, didn't do much to save face.

Pollyanna had the benefit of having a short set and was somewhat fun to watch, but Loveless overstayed its welcome

with a nearly 45-minute set. I found myself checking the time more often than not, instead of enjoying the music.

All my grudges went away when the Waterparks took to the stage bathed in red light. Opening with "Watch What Happens Next" from 2019's "FANDOM," electric energy flooded the venue as the band moved seamlessly from one track to the next.

While the show featured a solid mixture of songs from each of Waterparks's five studio albums, 2021's "Greatest Hits" and 2023's "INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY" had the most songs performed, and 2018's "Entertainment" got the short end of the stick with only one song, "Blonde," played.

The band was just as fun to watch when interacting with fans as when performing. Lead vocalist Awsten Knight took a FaceTime call from an audience member's mom, and fans successfully bullied the group into an impromptu performance of "Group Chat."

One of the best moments was

Knight's acoustic performance of "21 Questions," which was lit with only audience members' phone lights and everyone shouting each word.

With the lighting matching the color of each album, dangling hazmat suits, overgrown ivy and billowing smoke, the stage was filled with tons of Waterparks easter eggs and added to the over-the-top energy of the show.

Bringing an extra layer of tension to the concert was the "RELIGIOUS GUILT" interlude, which projected an image of Knight sitting alone against a white cloth as walking hazmat suits surrounded him and frogs croaked in the background. When the cloth finally dropped, fans roared as the band kicked into "SOULSUCKER."

Knight said he tries to make each show different, and for the SNEAKING OUT OF HEAVEN TOUR, he brought out a piano to play "High Definition," "Snow Globe" and "Crying Over It All." "Snow Globe" has become



Photo by Rachel Rudd | Editor-in-Chief  
Lead vocalist Awsten Knight performing at the House of Blues in Dallas for the SNEAKING OUT OF HEAVEN TOUR.

one of my favorite Waterparks songs, so hearing this new take on it made me fall even deeper in love with the song.

Concluding the show with an encore of "Numb," "Turbulent" and "REAL SUPER DARK," the nearly two-hour setlist flew by

and left me wanting more. It's safe to say I have seen the light and will be seeing the light and many more concerts the next chance I get.

**Final Score:** 9/10

**Favorite Songs Played:** "Snow Globe," "Magnetic," "Stupid for You" and "You'd Be Paranoid

Too (If Everyone Was Out to Get You)"

**Wish They'd Played:** "Not Warriors," "Rare," and "Royal"

**Travel Note:** House of Blues is a 6-hour and 15-minute drive from the Arkansas State University campus.



## CAMPUS RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT: Archives and Special Collections

WILL LIVINGSTON

STAFF WRITER

Students looking for sources on a project or are simply wanting to learn more about the history of northeast Arkansas can look no further than Archives and Special Collections.

Located on the 7th floor of the Dean B. Ellis Library, the archives hold a large collection of history on both Arkansas State University and the entirety of the Arkansas Delta region.

“Our main job is to preserve and make available records that we believe have enduring value,” said Matthew Mayton, the head of archives. “Our primary focus is to preserve the heritage of Northeast Arkansas and the Mississippi Delta region.”

The archives staff encourages everyone to come to the archives.

“We like for A-State students, faculty and staff to come to the archives to research, but we are also keen on having outside researchers,” said Malissa Davis, the archives technician. “We’ve had authors of different books come in to do research over the years. Just about anyone can come and research in the archives.”

A wide variety of majors use the archives, including students from history, heritage studies, political science and more. “We’ve also expanded our



Malissa Davis, archives technician, examining records in the Archives and Special Collections.

Photo by Will Livingston | Staff Writer

student usage to the art and design department and mass communications. We get a variety of students who find something here,” Davis said.

A never-ending task of archivists is the preservation of documents and other forms of media, which can be a battle against the elements.

As most of what is held in the archives is on paper, the department uses special acid-free boxes and folders to prevent a chemical breakdown of the documents. Everything is kept dry and at cooler temperatures to prevent damage.

The archives also hold several special collections

of books. Included in these collections are most of the works of children’s author Lois Lenski, who wrote and illustrated several of her books based on rural communities in northeast Arkansas.

Other notable works in the collection include a collection of books on Arkansas, as well as an

aeronautics collection donated by Cass Hough, the founder of Daisy Manufacturing and a prominent figure in the industrialization of Arkansas.

Among other media, the archives contain a vast amount of newsreel footage from KAIT 8, the local news station, which has all been digitized.

Archives began digitizing their records to make access to documents quicker, especially those frequently asked for by researchers.

“Usually when we digitize things, it’s to make things more accessible. We don’t digitize to preserve the items, just to make them readily available,” Mayton said.

A visit to the archives is currently by appointment only, but walk-in hours will be available for the special collections next semester to bring more students to the archives.

The archives are for all people curious about the local community and history and all are encouraged to visit and look around.

“It’s kind of a treasure hunt,” said assistant library director April Sheppard. “We’re always finding the coolest stuff in there. If there’s something you’re looking for, feel free to ask.”

To request materials from the collection or to have them ready for a visit, students need to fill out an archives material request form and any researchers who want to visit the archives or special collections department must fill out a research registration form.

The Archives and Special Collections staff can be contacted at [archives@astate.edu](mailto:archives@astate.edu).

### HOROSCOPES

BY SHAILEY WOOLDRIDGE | MYSTIC CORRESPONDENT

<p><b>ARIES</b></p> <p>Buckle up because Mercury is in retrograde in your sign. Expect delays and miscommunications.</p>	<p><b>TAURUS</b></p> <p>Venus enters your sign April 28, grounding you and bringing harmony to your relationships.</p>	<p><b>GEMINI</b></p> <p>Venus in Aries brings opportunities for advancement and recognition in your career.</p>
<p><b>CANCER</b></p> <p>The full moon in Scorpio April 28 highlights your creativity and self-expression.</p>	<p><b>LEO</b></p> <p>The full moon in Scorpio April 28 brings emotional revelations concerning your home life.</p>	<p><b>VIRGO</b></p> <p>The solar eclipse April 8 prompts you to release old habits and embrace personal growth.</p>
<p><b>LIBRA</b></p> <p>Mars enters Aries April 30, strengthening your relationships both romantic and platonic.</p>	<p><b>SCORPIO</b></p> <p>Venus enters Aries April 4, enhancing your work environment and relationships with colleagues.</p>	<p><b>SAGITTARIUS</b></p> <p>The full moon in Scorpio April 23 prompts you to seek deeper meaning and connection to your higher self.</p>
<p><b>CAPRICORN</b></p> <p>Avoid impulsive spending this month as Mercury retrograde may bring financial challenges.</p>	<p><b>AQUARIUS</b></p> <p>The solar eclipse April 8 marks a fresh start in how you express yourself and connect with others.</p>	<p><b>PISCES</b></p> <p>Mars enters Aries April 30, focus on cultivating financial stability and pursuing your goals.</p>

Graphic by Rachel Rudd | Editor-in-Chief

## Solar Eclipse need to knows

**TIME:**  
The total solar eclipse will be visible in Arkansas from 1:45 pm to 2:00 pm on Monday, April 8.

**SUPPLIES:**  
Stock up on food and drinks before the day of the eclipse, traffic will be congested and stores will be crowded.  
Make sure to have solar eclipse glasses, dark sunglasses will not be enough to protect your eyes.

**LOCATION:**  
The eclipse will be visible from downtown Jonesboro for a little under three minutes in the afternoon, making it the best place to view the eclipse in its totality.

**IMPORTANCE:**  
Arkansas will be able to view the solar eclipse in ‘totality’ which will completely obscure the sun from sight. Any given place on Earth is only able to view an event like this once every 375 years. Don’t miss out!

Graphic by Elijah Templeton | Opinion Editor