

BARRELHOUSE

CONVERSATIONS AND CONNECTIONS: PRACTICAL ADVICE ON
WRITING
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY. APRIL 12, 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

GETTING THERE: LOCATION AND MAP

[Schedule:](#)

[Parking](#)

[To Kerwin Hall From Parking](#)

[Metro](#)

FOOD AND COFFEE

[Coffee](#)

[Food](#)

[Directions to On-Campus Food from Kerwin Hall](#)

[Off-Campus Lunch Options](#)

[Reception](#)

INFORMATION FOR THE DAY OF THE CONFERENCE

[Check-in and Registration Packet Pickup](#)

[The Name We Have is the One That Paid Us](#)

[Speed Dating: What It Is, What to Bring, How it All Works](#)

GETTING THERE: LOCATION AND MAP

American University
School of Public Affairs
Kerwin Hall

Address:

Ward Circle Bldg, Kerwin Hall
3590 Nebraska Ave NW
Washington DC 20016

Google Map:

📍 Ward Circle Bldg

Schedule

8:30: Check-in begins

9:00: Welcome

9:30 — 10:30: Session 1 panel discussions and craft workshops

10:45 — 11:45: Session 2 panel discussions and craft workshops

12:00 — 2:00: Speed dating with editors; online Write-In; Lunch

2:15 — 3:45: Featured author readings and QA

4:00 — 5:00 Session 3 panel discussions and craft workshops

5:00: Post conference reception

Parking

Cost: Parking is free at American University on Saturdays. Free!

Available Lots: Are in the Katzen Arts Center Garage, the Spring Valley Building, or the School of International Service Garage.

Parking Map: Here is a link to a full-page [PDF map of parking lots at American University](#).

To Kerwin Hall From Parking

From the School of International Service garage: Exit the School of International Service building. Walk along the long gravel path straight ahead of you and pass by the East Quad

Building and Hurst Hall. Kerwin Hall will be the third building on your right.

From the East Campus lot: Cross Nebraska Ave. Directly across the street will be Kerwin Hall.

From the Katzen Arts Center garage: Cross Massachusetts Ave. Turn left and walk past the Kogod School of Business building and the Kay Spiritual Life Center (a circular building with a flame on top of it). Once you get to a gravel path, turn right and Kerwin Hall will be on your left.

From all directions, when you get to Kerwin, look for our bright pink WELCOME WRITERS signs, which will literally tell you that you are in the right place.

Metro

AU Shuttle:

- At the Tenleytown metro stop, stand in front of Wawa and take the AU shuttle bus (labeled Blue Route).
- After passing Nebraska Hall and going through a traffic circle (Ward Circle), get off the bus and you will be in front of Kerwin Hall, also known as the School of Public Affairs or SPA.

FOOD AND COFFEE

Coffee

Coffee will be provided in Kerwin Hall for breakfast.

Other coffee options:

- Starbucks (Bender Tunnel and Foxhall Square locations)
- Panera (Mary Graydon Center)
- Bluestone Lane (Spring Valley)
- Compass Coffee (Spring Valley)

Food

Breakfast: Bagels and pastries will be provided in Kerwin lobby beginning at 8:30 am.

On-campus Lunch Options:

- Panera is located in the Mary Graydon Center ([directions from Kerwin to Mary Graydon Center](#))
- Qdoba, Eagle Express, and Subway are all located in the Bender Pavillion Tunnel.
- There are also additional options located in Constitution Hall. See [here](#) for locations and hours of operation.

Directions to On-Campus Food from Kerwin Hall

Kerwin Hall -> Mary Graydon Center

- Exit Kerwin Hall on the side with the quad in front of you (Hissho Sushi will be on your left as you exit).
- Take any path across the quad
- Mary Graydon Center is the farthest left building when looking at the buildings across the quad from Kerwin Hall. It's also the closest building to the flagpole on the quad.

Kerwin Hall -> Bender Tunnel

- Exit Kerwin Hall on the side with the quad in front of you (Hissho Sushi will be on your left as you exit).
- Take the steps between the Mary Graydon Center (directions to that building above) and Battelle-Tompkins Building (the building on the right of Mary Graydon) and enter the doors in front of you.
- Then, either take the elevator down into the Tunnel (doors outside to the Tunnel will be in front of you when you exit the elevator) or walk down the stairs to your right. If you take the stairs, follow the hallway in front of you all the way down until you reach more stairs on your left.
- After walking down these steps, you will see doors leading outside into the Tunnel.

Kerwin Hall -> Constitution Hall

- Exit Kerwin Hall on the side with Nebraska Ave. in front of you (Hissho Sushi will be on your right as you exit).
- Turn right until you see a crosswalk on your left, and cross Nebraska Ave.
- You will now be on East Campus, and Constitution Hall will be in front of you.
- The restaurant/convenience store Freshens is in Constitution Hall, on the right of the underpass cars cross through to park on East Campus.

Virtual Campus Map: <https://map-american.university-tour.com/au-main-campus>

Off-Campus Lunch Options

Tenleytown:

You can walk (20 min.) or take the AU Shuttle bus-Blue Route (5-8 min) to Tenleytown to go out to lunch! Options near the shuttle bus stop/metro station include Chick-Fil-A, Panera, Guapo's, Masala Art, Whole Foods, Five Guys, Mama Joon, Surfside, and more.

Spring Valley:

You can walk (15 min.) or take the AU Shuttle bus-Red Route Express to Spring Valley for lunch. Options include Millie's, Pizzeria Paradiso, Spring Valley Cafe, Playa Bowls, and more.

Foxhall Square:

You can walk (8 min.) to Foxhall Square for options like Wagshal's, Al Dente, Chef Geoff's, and Shemali's.

Shuttle stop directions for Tenley and Spring Valley:

Tenleytown: If you are in the Bender Tunnel (directions to the Tunnel can be found above), stand on the side of the street with Subway, Starbucks, and Qdoba. Walk out of the tunnel so these restaurants are on your right, and walk up the hill. Once you reach the top of the hill, you will see a shuttle bus stop outside of the Kogod School of Business close to the intersection with Wisconsin Ave. The Blue Route shuttle bus will pick you up here and take you to the Tenleytown metro stop (drop-off is outside of Wawa).

Spring Valley: If you are in the Bender Tunnel (directions to the Tunnel can be found above), stand on the side of the street with Subway, Starbucks, and Qdoba. Walk out of the tunnel so these restaurants are on your right, and walk up the hill until you reach the intersection with Wisconsin Ave. Cross Wisconsin Ave. so you are on the side of the street with the Katzen Arts Center (this building has a large round rotunda). There will be a bus stop a few steps away on your right. Here, a Red Route shuttle bus will pick you up and take you to Spring Valley (drop-off is at the intersection of Wisconsin Ave. and 48th St.).

Reception

Light refreshments and snacks will be provided at our reception at 5 pm in Kerwin lobby, and a cash bar will be available.

INFORMATION FOR THE DAY OF THE CONFERENCE

Check-in and Registration Packet Pickup

Check-in will start at 8:30 (the conference starts at 9:00).

Our registration desk will be set up inside Kerwin Hall, and our activities will all take place one level down. Look for the bright pink WELCOME WRITERS signs outside the building and inside, which will literally indicate that “you are in the right place.”

Registration is super easy: we'll have your name on a list, so just come in and tell the nice folks at the desk who you are, and we'll cross that name off our list and hand you a registration packet. If you're an American student, let us know that as well. That's it!

Inside that registration packet you'll find: a schedule with room assignments, a “partner press” form, a featured book form, a ticket for “speed dating with editors,” and a nametag (**note for AU students:** you will not have the book form or the partner press form).

The registration desk will be set up all day, and will serve as a kind of “home base” for the conference, so if you have any questions, or if you're getting in late, that's the place to go.

The Name We Have is the One That Paid Us

Just a quick note that the name we have for you is the one that paid for your ticket, so if you have a different name, or a shared account, or if somebody else paid for you, please let me know and I'll change the name in our system, so we don't have any confusion when you show up to the conference.

Speed Dating: What It Is, What to Bring, How it All Works

Speed dating is a ten minute one-on-one meeting with a literary magazine or small press editor. There will be one ticket for speed dating in your registration packet. A few notes about how this is all going to work:

Paper! This works best on paper, so if you can print out whatever you're planning to workshop and bring it along to the conference, that will help our editors help you.

Lines! We'll have all the editors set up in the speed dating space, and a line for attendees to enter. If we have 18 editors, we'll let 18 people in the room for their 10 minute 1-on-1 workshop session. When that 10 minutes is over, we'll bring in another group and do it all over again. We'll keep that up until everybody is done, or we get to the end of the 2 hours allotted for speed dating. What I'm saying is there will be some waiting in line and some writer herding and some of me shouting the time out ("two minutes left!").

Extra tickets will be available throughout the day at the registration desk, so if you go through once and want to go back again, you can purchase another ticket for \$5 and meet with another editor. We'll be working to make sure everybody goes through at least once, so there's a chance that near the end of the session, we need to move some people around to make sure that happens.

The following things work best in the speed dating format:

- A flash story or essay
- A poem
- The first few pages of a longer story or essay

If you have something that doesn't fit in these categories, come see me and let me know what you're hoping to work with, and I'll do my best to match you up with somebody who can give you good feedback. Same goes for genre work -- if you have fantasy, or YA, or crime, or whatever, let me know and I'll try to match you up with an editor who is at least familiar with that genre. Those last two sentences come with no guarantees, but I'll do my best.

A few notes about speed dating:

- First of all, don't be nervous! We know it's a kind of strange, potentially charged situation, but we swear all our editors are kind and approachable and are just there to help you make your work as good as it can be.
- You'll meet with an editor who specializes in your genre, so poetry will be read by poetry editors, nonfiction by nonfiction editors, etc.
- **We cannot match you up with the specific editor of your choice**, however -- there's just not enough time or flexibility to allow everybody to choose their editorial match. If you come through again, we'll work to make sure you're able to meet with a different editor.
- If you have any questions about this, feel free to reply to this message or grab me on the day of the conference.