



As we return from fall break, we enter the last lap before the semester ends. Some of us were able to rest and rejuvenate. Others of us may have spent a frantic week interacting with family. Many more of you may have been catching up on grading or nursing a cold that you thought may have been COVID. I wish all of you one last burst of energy as we launch into the remaining few weeks of the semester.

Without a doubt, terrible things have been going on in the world too many of which I can name here. Still we carry on with persistence and fortitude, the same strength perhaps that enabled our ancestors to survive and bring us life today. As a historian of gender, race, and sexuality, I have seen how difficult it is for students to see beyond the terrible things and instead feel grateful if not inspired by how we are still here. Yet we all know as survivors that we must, to some degree, see the glass as half full and continue to believe in the possibility of change to carry on. This past week [Franny Choi's book of poetry, *The World Keeps Ending and the World Goes On*](#) particularly resonated with me.

On Tuesday our own library sparked my creativity and brought me hope. I visited the [MakerSpace](#) and learned that we have 3-D printers, sound recording rooms, virtual reality labs, and film editing equipment for use by any staff, faculty, and students either by appointment or through their [open hours in the afternoon four days a week](#). I also learned a faculty member teaching conflict resolution had used the library GoPro to record reactions of participants 360 degrees in role play exercises. A variety of readily available technologies at the library have sparked instructors to retool how they teach. I additionally explored the vast paging system where a student showed me how a vinyl record by Stevie Wonder would be retrieved in a three-story cavern that reminded me of the pods in the Matrix. I still remember the first Bookmobile I climbed aboard in the early 1970s. Learning how to read opened up a new world for me to explore. As the library has begun to fully reopen its doors, I ask what the library asks of all of us, "what will you create?"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy Sueyoshi', written in a cursive style.

Amy Sueyoshi
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

