History Walk

The AU Community is invited to attend the History Walk, a self-guided walking tour, marking significant locations on campus that reflect AU’s rich and diverse history.

**STARING POINT: Bender Library (see Library map on the back)**

AU’s arboretum and gardens display over 300 varieties of plant species. There are over 3,000 trees on campus and AU is ranked #4 on Best Choice Schools’ list of “Most Beautiful Urban Campuses.”

On June 10, 1963 President John F. Kennedy delivered the commencement address that would later be known as “A Strategy of Peace.”

Bender Arena features the Stafford H. Cassell Hall of Fame, which recognizes the achievements of the Department of AU Athletics.

Kay Spiritual Life Center is one of the oldest interfaith centers in the U.S. The 16-ft impressionistic flame atop of the center represents divine light.

The Julian Bond Plaza, dedicated in 2017, serves as a place to sit and reflect on the values that Julian Bond promoted during his lifetime. The late activist, educator, and politician was also an adjunct professor of government in the School of Public Affairs.

SIS has welcomed famous world leaders and dignitaries that include Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, former President of the United States Barack Obama, and journalist David Gregory.

HISTORICAL FIGURES

**Frederick Law Olmsted Sr.**

Known as the Father of American landscape architecture, Olmsted designed Central Park in New York, the U.S. Capitol grounds. Olmsted’s firm was consulted for the university’s original design. Although these plans were not used, the original sketches from 1895 can be found in the university archives.

**Alice Paul**

AU is home to several women suffragists including Alice Paul, who was one of the main leaders and strategists for the campaign that lead to the passage of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing women the right to vote.

**Women and AU**

1896: The Washington College of Law was founded for women.

1915: 5 of AU’s first 28 students were women.

These achievements were relatively un-heard of during a time before women were granted the right to vote.
History Walk

Starting Point: Bender Library

Connect with AU Library to learn more about our services, get updates, and hear about cool events.

#AUHISTORYWALK

www.american.edu/library