Mission Critical
Creative approaches help extend essential services provided by Emory Libraries during the pandemic.

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A masked student studies away from other library users.

Signage helps maintain social distance in Woodruff Library.

A sign reminds users of Woodruff Library policies.
Pivoting in a time of crisis

Mission critical

In mid-March of 2020, a library-wide effort was launched to maintain mission-critical research for the university. Emory needed the Libraries to help support the research of faculty and students, and we responded quickly to resuming some in-person services, access to some library facilities, and mediated access to our physical collections.

Many Emory students left the campus for spring break, leaving textbooks and research behind, and were not able to return. Emory Libraries met this challenge by increasing remote access and being available to listen and react to individual needs.

A frantic graduate student in Virginia, for example, told us she had none of the books from her required reading list to study for her comprehensive exams (a requirement for completing her PhD). The library purchased e-books where possible and sent her physical copies when no digital versions were available. This fall, we worked with honors students to help them research and write their senior theses. Some were abroad and had been consulting with librarians to find full-text options for their research.

We heard from a faculty member about how grateful she was for her subject librarian, who helped her class transition from in-person to remote, and she credited the library for her students’ success. Another faculty member told us he had to complete three articles for publication this summer, and this task would have been impossible without the library’s help getting access to the research he needed. The library seeks to engage as partners in advancing student and faculty success, and we know this is all the more important during a pandemic.

Through remote access to library collections and services, we made accessible 600,000 additional e-books through our library catalog from March 2020 through the end of summer. Many classes formerly held film screenings from DVDs, but starting in March, all our video content needed to be delivered via streaming. We licensed over 3,500 new videos, and our users watched 300,000 minutes of streaming videos through library databases and platforms. Woodruff has continued to add e-book content and streaming video to meet remote needs of our students, faculty, and staff this academic year, as most classes continue to be online. The library has continued to provide document delivery (or scanned content) from our own collection and to request scanned material from our loan partners throughout, as well. Our Interlibrary Loan staff provided 3,614 scanned articles/chapters to Emory researchers from March to September 2020. Meanwhile, our subject librarians recorded over 3,000 virtual consultations or collection requests from March through August, more than double the number during the same period in 2019.

More responsive in this area than many of our peer research libraries, Emory Libraries was one of the first to allow users to check out physical items. Woodruff Library staff started several initiatives such as curbside and grab-and-go services as the stacks remained closed. These services have continued and expanded through the fall and spring semesters, as most learning and research remains remote. For example, we recently installed 107 individual locker units in an eight-tower automated self-service system outside the library for 24/7 pick-up access of library material. The kiosk integrates with our library systems to create a seamless user experience. We hope this will be a creative solution that will remain popular long after 2021 and the pandemic are history.

We continue to strive to meet
our users’ research needs despite limited access to physical collections. From mid-August through December, Woodruff staffers mediated over 6,631 requests for physical collections. The library also facilitated 641 curbside pickups and 1,510 grab-and-go pickups, many involving multiple titles. This fall, there were students and faculty on campus (although in much-reduced numbers), and Woodruff Library accommodated 10,262 appointments for levels 1-3 of the library building.

**Business and Oxford respond**

Almost immediately after the university made the decision to move all classes online, Goizueta business librarians started talking about creating a blog, Navigating COVID-19, for its community of B-school faculty and students. Faculty were pivoting spring 2020 semester projects to incorporate COVID-19 impact, and students, faculty and staff alike were trying to figure out the current and future of the business environment.

“We were amazed at how many of our database vendors and consulting firms were already starting to incorporate these insights into their market research reports, articles, and other content,” said Susan M. Klopper, director of the Goizueta Business Library. “It was not too long before many were also tapping into Zoom and scheduling timely and fascinating speaker series and other forums. They all made our challenge of identifying important content and sharing it with our community easy.”

At the Oxford College Library, teaching librarians helped the faculty make the change to online instruction. When the Oxford College Center for Teaching and Scholarship and the Academic Technology team developed the Oxford College Online Teaching (OCOT) Canvas modules to help faculty transition their fall 2020 courses from in person to online, Oxford librarians stepped up to host a module of their own. In May and June, they participated in the Zoom discussion sessions for faculty about the Canvas modules that focused on best practices in online learning.

Librarians developed a session, now available as a Canvas module, on “Integrating Library Resources and Developing Students’ Information Literacy Online.” Topics include the importance of helping students become literate with online information, how faculty can embed librarians in their courses to assist students with research, using library resources, and navigating copyright and fair use considerations.

“Librarians worked one on one with them” to prepare for the fall semester, said Oxford College Library Dean Kitty McNeill. “We really tailored research instruction to what the faculty needed for their specific courses.”

Oxford’s teaching librarians also worked with students to increase their success with research. The librarians spent time developing modules in Canvas to acclimate students with the basics of research, including how to find the right resources and critically evaluate them, then held individual online research consultations with the students to work on their specific papers or projects and answer their individual questions.

“We’re focused on providing the best library research assistance for our faculty and students,” she said. “Students are very appreciative of the chance to work individually with the librarians, and it’s another point of contact for students working remotely to support them in their work.”

Kim Collins, director of research and engagement services, and Maureen McGavin, Emory Libraries writer
The power of words

Rose Library has a long history of acquiring social justice and civil rights collections, but we do so much more to advance our commitments to equality and justice than just collect.

Most of this work has been happening for a long time but became even more critically relevant in the wake of George Floyd’s murder by Minneapolis police and the subsequent widespread interrogation of racist practices in our political and social institutions across the country.

One example is the Lift Every Voice project, an outreach and social media campaign conducted in collaboration with Woodruff Library, campus partners, and Emory graduate students that has engaged hundreds of folks across the country in discussions about the role of the post-Civil War Reconstruction period, and how the laws and policies defining citizenship for Black Americans that were put in place during Reconstruction, particularly the 14th Amendment, continue to shape civic life today.

This project started at the beginning of 2020 to examine the role of citizenship and political enfranchisement for Black Americans at one moment of racial turmoil—the wake of the Civil War—and is concluding during another moment of national reckoning around race and justice. Over the course of the year the project created content with major Reconstruction scholars, held events both in person and virtual, and engaged students and the public in dialogue around the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in America. In the run up to the election, the project launched a seminar series exploring a different facet of Reconstruction and its legacies, both positive and negative. You may follow this work on Twitter: @EveryVoice2020

In addition, the pandemic and the realities of hitting pause on some of our typical duties, including staffing our reading rooms and working onsite with collections, provided the space and dedicated time and focus to start on a few projects that we have wanted to take up for a long time, such as drafting a set of guidelines for writing inclusive, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive finding aids and catalog records.

Rose Library collects heavily in LGBTQ life and African American history and culture, and we also have long collected local history from here in the heart of the American South. We know that our collections and our descriptions of them include outdated, racist, or otherwise offensive language, and we want a way to explain to those using our collections both why this language may exist and what we are doing to address that and why.

This became particularly important as we were also preparing to include the Langmuir collec-
tion, a huge collection of photographs documenting African Americans, as part of our launch of the new Emory Digital Collections site, which you will read more about in this issue.

The Langmuir collection documents the full breadth of African American experience in the United States, and while the collection includes joyful and beautiful histories and images, it also includes the material traces of a very painful, dehumanizing, and virulently racist and violent America, such as images of lynchings and postcards containing racial slurs and racist imagery. And we wanted our users to understand why they may be encountering painful language and images and give them the opportunity to engage with us further about it.

Almost as soon as we shifted to remote work, my colleague Sarah Quigley convened a small group of us to examine how we have historically described racial, gender, and sexual identities, and to develop updated guidelines for how to do so in the future. We started by drafting a harmful language statement that is now on our website, as well as an abbreviated statement that we have attached to some of our material in Emory digital collections.

Our next steps will be to identify where we have used outdated or offensive terms in our description and update and revise these finding aids and catalog records to better reflect the Libraries mission and values.

These are only a few of the examples of the work we have been doing to create opportunities to engage with issues of justice and inclusivity in the Rose Library, both during the pandemic and before.

Carrie Hintz, associate director of the Rose Library
The Woodruff Health Sciences Center Library serves the academic communities of the schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health, where our patrons include medical students, nursing students, epidemiologists in training, and faculty and staff. We also serve locations across Atlanta, including Emory Saint Joseph’s Hospital and Emory John’s Creek Hospital, Emory Midtown Hospital, Emory University Hospital, the Grady Hospital campus branch library, the graduate division of Biological & Biomedical Sciences, and undergraduate biology.

As the university transitioned to remote only, the Library’s life sciences subscriptions and genomics software helped graduate students continue their education and allowed researchers to continue working on vital projects during the campus shutdown. There was a 50% increase of usage of Nature Masterclasses, an online course in scientific writing and publishing, and genomics software, such as MetaCore and GeneXplain.

With over 350 publications, Emory faculty have contributed significantly to the understanding and treatment of COVID-19 since the outbreak. A section of the research guide highlights these publications.

Our informationists also created an online COVID-19 research guide to provide access to research and resources to the healthcare professionals of Emory University and Emory Healthcare. This resource includes patient care tools as well as information for treating special populations, such as the elderly and pregnant women.

With over 350 publications, Emory faculty have contributed significantly to the understanding and treatment of COVID-19 since the outbreak. A section of the research guide highlights these publications.

We began to capture data on the COVID-19-related research questions we received through our reference service, Ask a Librarian, in March 2020. As the breadth and depth of the pandemic continued to rise, the complexity of the research questions we received rose as well.

Our team of informationists routinely research and answer clinical complex questions from physicians, nurses, pharmacists and other clinicians throughout Emory healthcare system. One of
their responsibilities is to attend weekly Internal Medicine and Surgery “patient case conferences.” It was important for all parties involved that the clinical informationist still be able to attend the multiple case conferences that occurred weekly even during the hospital lockdown. It was decided that Zoom could make this happen.

Drs. Daniel Dressler and Chris Massad purchased a table microphone and began taking notes on an iPad (screen-shared via Zoom), making it possible for the clinical informationist to continue to participate, while working remotely. The Emory University Hospital clinical informationist has returned to attending Morning Reports in-person but continues to attend the Department of Surgery’s “patient case conferences” via Zoom.

A hallmark of the health sciences literature, a systematic review aims to identify, appraise, and synthesize all the empirical evidence to answer a given research question. Our library supports these projects through our systematic review service. We offer research teams a two-tiered service model that can range from 10 hours of consultation and building search strategies to 40-60 hours of database searching. Many of these projects lead to co-authorship opportunities for our informationist. From March 2020 when the campus shut down through September, there was a marked increase in systematic review requests, which we speculate was a direct result of the move to remote learning and teaching. During this time period, our team joined 16 systematic review projects.

In collaboration with the Emory University Archives, our Historical Collections staff developed the Archive-It project. Given the unprecedented and historical nature of a global pandemic, one of the purposes of the project was to identify and capture COVID-19-related web content from the schools of Medicine, Nursing, Public Health, and the Woodruff Health Sciences Center.

While projects like Archive-It look to the future, we’re committed to staying on the forefront and the frontlines to assist both research and patient care today.

Shenita Peterson, public health informationist in the Woodruff Health Sciences Center Library and WHSC Library Communications & Outreach
TechLab creates face shields for Emory Healthcare

When shortages in personal protective equipment (PPE) started affecting Emory’s healthcare facilities, TechLab began looking for ways to help out. After evaluating the various designs people around the world have been promoting, and checking with Emory Healthcare doctors about their needs, we decided to make face shields.

We went through several iterations of prototypes as we figured out what we could make quickly that would also meet the needs of our healthcare partners. After a few trials, we settled on the design created by Budmen Industries, a 3D printing company in New York that was then adapted by the Columbia University Libraries Studio.

3D-printing the frames is the slowest part of making the face shields, since each frame takes 1 hour 20 minutes to print. To speed up our production, we started by printing the frames on all six of our 3D printers simultaneously. To source the other needed materials, we reached out to our campus partners. We received elastic straps from Theater Emory’s costume shop, which itself has been working on sewing cloth face masks, and we sourced plastic for the visor of the face shields from the Emory Libraries Conservation Lab.

After we delivered a first batch of 7 face shields to the Emory University Hospital Midtown’s anesthesia team, they started using them immediately, but we received a few requests to adjust the design to better fit their needs. The next batch of 37 delivered in April incorporated these changes.

Safety was a number one priority in TechLab. In order to protect our healthcare workers who would be using the face shields, we sanitized all surfaces before using them, as well as wearing cloth face masks and washing our hands immediately before manipulating any parts. Our final tally came out to 192 face shields given away to Emory Healthcare.

Benjamin Kasavan, academic technology specialist in Student Digital Life

Emory Healthcare received 192 face shields from Tech Lab.
early five years ago Emory Libraries Dean Yolanda Cooper identified challenges with our libraries’ digital and digitized collections. Our content was difficult to find, we struggled to scale up the amount of content we made available, and it was also difficult for our staff to manage the infrastructure related to the content.

At the time, the libraries had upwards of 10 different applications, all performing roughly the same or similar functions. We also had hundreds of thousands of objects and around 150 terabytes that our users were struggling to access.

Dean Cooper outlined a strategy for implementing a comprehensive program that preserved and made available Emory’s digital and digitized unique and rare collections. We knew this new strategy needed to simplify our previous state so our users could more easily find the rich content the university collects.

The libraries worked together on a multi-year effort to develop three applications: one application to manage content, another to keep the content safe, and still a third to make it available to end users. These applications work together to form Emory’s Preservation Repository. Its goal is to curate, preserve, and provide long term access to the university’s unique cultural heritage and scholarship.

You can access this now at digital.library.emory.edu. When you come to the homepage you can see that we highlight some of the collections currently in Emory Digital Collections. There is also a search bar at the top.

Using our “Framing Shadows” exhibit as inspiration, a search for “nannies” generates a number of images. You’ll see that the images are high quality, allowing us to easily zoom in and see some of the finer detail. If there are multiple images related to the object, we can page through and see those. We also have quite a bit of metadata, including the harmful language statement described by Carrie Hintz in her article, as well as keywords that can lead users to similar images that may not have been discovered in the initial search.

Emory Digital Collections is a fun way to explore some of the content that we have made available, and it also provides us an opportunity to share the content with the wider research community. The technology and standards that support Emory Digital Collections are widely used by institutions around the world, and they allow users to share and embed this content on their own webpages. Those institutions have come up with innovative ways for libraries to bring their collections together.

By using open software and standards, we are able to open up a world of possibility to the researchers here at Emory.

Rosalyn Metz, associate dean for Library Technology and Digital Strategies
Since the outbreak of COVID, our exhibitions team has been focused on taking our physical exhibitions and moving them online to optimize their impact.

The first exhibit we launched online was “Framing Shadows: Portraits of Nannies from the Robert Langmuir African American Photograph Collection,” curated by Dr. Kimberly Wallace-Sanders. Based on a series of images from 1840 to 1920, this exhibit depicts what is perhaps the most complex interracial relationship in American life, displaying nannies holding white children. When the physical exhibit was on view in the Woodruff Library, visitors walked into a rotunda that included back-lit panels displaying the images, and then progressed into a corridor. Cases along the hallway included books from the Rose Library and 20 images selected by our curator to raise questions and help promote conversation.

Now that it has been moved online, the exhibit is virtually the same thing seen in the physical exhibit. It’s also interactive, so viewers can click on the images to see more detail and read what these portraits mean to the curator and what more can be learned from them. We have also included prompt questions, where guests can send their answers to us.

Our cases have been put in a timeline order, so viewers can scroll through, click on the actual books, look closely at them, move through and read more, and then learn how to access these materials in the library. Our Meet the Curator page includes more about Dr. Wallace-Sanders and her work. We also have a Resources page, which contains a full interview with her, along with other background information, and an opportunity to learn about ways to give.

The benefits of an online exhibit include the ability to offer access to information that we couldn’t feature in the physical exhibit itself. We’re also taking Dr. Wallace-Sanders’ work and preserving that scholarship for the greater community. Online exhibits allow us to promote our collections in a way that can be viewed from home, which is a huge opportunity due to COVID. We also can gather analytics and see what pages people want to view and what they’re looking at.

This online exhibit has already impacted three classes, with instructors who are using this in their classrooms. Within the first two days of its launch, this exhibit had over 300 likes on Facebook. We are also reaching out into the community by providing curriculum for children and teens, to be available on the online exhibit, and creating a traveling exhibit, both coming soon.

We’ve now launched another online exhibit, “Our Archives Could Be Your Life,” which includes many of the same resources for our visitors. We’re excited by these online opportunities and look forward to more projects this year.

Caroline Corbitt, exhibition graphic designer for Emory Libraries

With few guests visiting campus, curators took exhibits online and discovered new ways to enhance standing collections.
The benefits of an online exhibit include the ability to offer access to information that we couldn’t feature in the physical exhibit itself.
Recent social unrest, overt racism, and police brutality, along with COVID-19 health disparities, have galvanized our resolve to provide wide-ranging events and education for the Emory Libraries community.

Over the summer, in collaboration with other librarians and employees, our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee created and facilitated a series of anti-racism forums in response to a nationwide call for change following incidents of police brutality. People attended the forums via Zoom and took part in large and small group discussions about institutional racism in libraries, allyship, and social justice practices.

Additionally, a Coffee and Critical Conversations series was organized by the Professional Development subcommittee for library employees to engage in dialogue and build community around DEI topics. The subcommittee sought to foster understanding and inspire fruitful discussion on racism and oppression. In doing so, we hope to transform the organizational culture and relieve anxiety around talking about sensitive subjects both within our institution and outside it.

Coffee and Critical Conversations offered a space for staff to demystify their emotions, find language to express their feelings about current events, and foster authentic connections on our path to creating a more equitable institution. Included in these efforts was the DEI Fall Film Festival, where we watched and discussed films such as “Change the Subject” and “Good Trouble” that look into issues such as immigration, institutionalized racism, and social activism.

We have also taken part in national DEI academic library initiatives, with six of our committee members contributing a book chapter, “The Making of Emory Libraries Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee: A Case Study,” to the Association of College

In 2019 the Outreach and Engagement subcommittee launched a vigorous campaign to celebrate affinity months and days. An affinity (or awareness, or heritage) month honors the contributions and influence of a group of people sharing a common heritage or cause, to the history, culture and achievements of the United States. Our pre-COVID 19 hands-on affinity events were open to the entire Emory community and included: pronoun button-making (in celebration of International Pronoun Day, and Trans Awareness Week), Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. button-making in celebration of Dr. King’s birthday, and a multi-cultural winter holiday card-making party.

We are continuing this campaign virtually by writing affinity month blogs and encouraging our library colleagues to do so as well. These blogs are also a means of sharing the wealth of resources which the libraries provide for learning about the people celebrated during affinity months. Those months included Black History Month, Women’s History Month, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, LGBTQ Pride Month, Disability Pride Month, and Hispanic Heritage Month, among others.

The DEI education subcommittee also updated the DEI LibGuide site for education, particularly with LinkedIn Learning modules such as “Confronting Racism” and “Bystander Training: From Bystander to Upstander.” We have vetted the many LinkedIn Learning courses, and we encourage others to utilize this virtual resource by taking these classes.

Our human resources department, which has a member on the DEI committee, conducted and presented a pay equity analysis that was shared in an all-library staff meeting. The presentation also included transparent discussion of compensation principles and practices. Additionally, HR facilitated training for reducing bias and inequity in the hiring and onboarding.

We will continue to help Emory Libraries overcome the exclusions and biases still prevalent in our society.

Saira Raza, business librarian for the Goizueta Business Library and co-chair of Emory Libraries’ Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

Stories during the coronavirus pandemic

Back in March 2020 when the pandemic first broke out, the Emory Oral History Program started hearing stories about how the lives of people were rapidly changing. Amid the uncertainty, we decided to launch a project that invited people to share their stories and experiences during the pandemic through oral history interviews.

Oral history is a compelling approach to understanding individual experiences and thinking about shared community because oral history is about storytelling—reflecting on the past, while in the present, to create a recording that others can view and use. At the heart of this process is the interview, one that creates space for a narrator to tell stories about their life in their own words.

We shifted to conducting remote interviews and invited anyone who considers themselves part of the Emory community to participate. This brought us to our central question, which is, “How is the pandemic impacting you?” This is our broad question, but we contextualize it by empowering narrators to talk about their past and lived experiences during the pandemic. Over the months, diverse themes have emerged, including struggle, loss, negotiation, resiliency and hope.

We’ve been recording stories since March every month, as the pandemic and our experiences during it have continued to change.

These interviews will be preserved and made available as part as part of the Emory Oral History Program in the Rose Library’s University Archives.

These interviews help bear witness to how we as a community experienced a pandemic. These efforts contribute to the historical record, creating resources for future researchers, educators, and the interested public.

Jonathan Coulis, coordinator of the Emory Oral History Program
As the intellectual commons of the university, the Emory Libraries offer resources and programs that promote interdisciplinary scholarship and academic excellence; distinctive collections that attract outstanding students, faculty, and staff; technology-rich spaces and digital tools that enable new forms of scholarship; public programs and exhibitions that help connect Emory University with its larger community; and the preservation of rare materials that document the full range of the human condition.

Emory University’s **ROBERT W. WOODRUFF LIBRARY** provides a place for learning, research, quiet study, collaboration, and technology for its students, faculty, and staff, as well as the Atlanta, state, national, and international communities.

**THE GOIZUETA BUSINESS LIBRARY** (top, left) provides resources, research, and career preparation support and a collaborative workspace for the business school’s students, faculty, and alumni.

**THE STUART A. ROSE MANUSCRIPT, ARCHIVES, AND RARE BOOK LIBRARY** is a place of discovery, where students, faculty, scholars, and other visitors can browse rare books, examine original letters and photographs from manuscript collections, and study the documents and records of groundbreaking organizations.

**THE WOODRUFF HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER (WHSC) LIBRARY** (bottom, left) connects the WHSC and Emory communities with information and knowledge to support education, research, and patient care. Electronic collections, information management and analysis tools, technology-rich collaborative spaces, and a team of subject experts promote evidence-based care and interdisciplinary study and research.

**THE OXFORD COLLEGE LIBRARY** offers a powerful combination of traditional resources, technology, and well-designed spaces to build community, increase communication, and inspire achievement in a liberal arts-intensive environment. By providing innovative resources, agile services, and teaching and learning opportunities, we preserve and promote the diverse intellectual and cultural heritage of Oxford College for the Emory University community.
THE MARIAN K. HEILBRUN MUSIC & MEDIA LIBRARY provides visual, sound, print, and online resources as well as media equipment and course reserves. It houses the MediaLab, where students and faculty can use a variety of media software with staff assistance available.

THE SCIENCE COMMONS AT THE ATWOOD CHEMISTRY CENTER (right) serves the fields of chemistry, physics, math, computer science, and environmental sciences. The space provides an opportunity for students and faculty of the various disciplines to interact and collaborate. The on-site collection includes current journals, popular science magazines, leisure reading, and current and core chemistry titles.

THE COMPUTING CENTER AT COX HALL combines flexible space with integrated technologies to encourage collaboration and facilitate faculty/student interactions. Creative lighting, large computer workstations, LED display screens, classrooms, and comfortable seating all combine to form a modern, relaxed atmosphere perfect for group study or individual work. In the center’s TechLab, faculty and students can find help with 3-D printing projects.

THE LIBRARY SERVICE CENTER (below) is a state-of-the-art facility created by Emory University and the Georgia Tech Library to house millions of books and other materials in optimal conditions. Located on Briarcliff Road, the climate-controlled 55,000-square-foot facility, with a capacity for four million volumes, currently holds more than 1.6 million items. Operated by Georgia Tech, it is open to students, faculty, and staff from both universities, who can request items that are quickly delivered from their individual library’s catalog system.

Other Emory University libraries

THE HUGH F. MACMILLAN LAW LIBRARY supports fully the scholarly pursuits of the faculty and students of the School of Law. To fulfill its mission, the MacMillan Law Library offers an active program of legal research instruction, an experienced and helpful staff, and extensive collections of law and law-related information.

THE PITTS THEOLOGY LIBRARY supports the Candler School of Theology and Emory University with its distinguished collections of rare books, archives, and other theological materials. Its 600,000 volumes, vigorous exhibit program, opportunities for volunteers, and instructional programs engage the entire university.
MATTHEW ARON became the director of instructional technology and design in Academic Technology Services. Prior to coming to Emory, he spent four years at Northwestern University, where he was the blended curriculum lead. Before that he spent many years working in the IT organization at the University of Chicago in web development and academic technology. Aron also taught college-level courses in web design and bookbinding at Columbia College Chicago.

ANDREW BATTLELLI became the metadata analyst librarian in the Metadata Services department. Prior to this position, he worked for a year as an STI management analyst as part of the NASA Scientific & Technical Information Program in Virginia. He also worked for three years as a circulation supervisor at the Thomas Cooper Library of USC Columbia, where he was involved with a number of digitization projects.

COLIN BRAGG joined Campus and Community Relations where he serves as the senior web content strategist for Emory Libraries. Prior to this, Bragg was in Woodruff Library’s Access Services department, where he served in multiple roles through the years, including course reserves coordinator, Music and Media Library coordinator, circulation manager, and senior library specialist. Before his arrival at Emory, Colin was a visiting music instructor at Western Carolina University.

JACQUI BROWN became a library specialist in the Goizueta Business Library. She has had her own business as a strategic development consultant and film producer. Most of her career has been in the non-profit, civic sector, working as a management consultant, operations coordinator, development manager, and strategist for a number of different organizations.

KIM COPENHAVER became the new director of Access Services for Emory Libraries. Prior to Emory, Copenhaver was at Eckerd College, where she was an associate professor, access services librarian and behavioral sciences liaison. Born and raised in Gainesville, FL, she earned her MLIS from the University of South Florida. She is also on the board of directors for the Association of College & Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association.
**DHY EDWARDSBERRY** joined the Goizueta Business Library as its newest business librarian. Before coming to Emory, she worked as an access services coordinator at Baker Library at Harvard Business School. While at Harvard, she also taught advanced music production at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston. She earned her bachelor’s degree in music business/management from Berklee College of Music and her MLIS degree from Simmons University.

**KATHERINE FISHER** joined the Rose Library as the new head of digital archives. She comes to Emory after working at Georgia State University as a digital preservation archivist. She also worked in scholarly publishing at university presses in Hawaii and North Carolina. Fisher earned a masters and PhD in English while at Michigan, and her MLIS from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

**CLINTON FLUKER** joined the Rose Library as its new curator of African American collections. He was previously assistant director of engagement and scholarship at the Atlanta University Center’s Robert W. Woodruff Library. He was the outreach coordinator and open educational resource specialist at the Emory Center for Digital Scholarship, and before that, a curatorial assistant in the Rose Library’s African American collections. He earned his BA in philosophy from Morehouse College and his MA and PhD in American Studies from Emory University.

**HEATHER GREER KLEIN** joined Library Technology and Digital Strategies as the new Samvera community manager. She works remotely from Durham, NC, with her role funded by the Samvera Community with Emory Libraries as her sponsor. Klein has worked as an outreach and engagement coordinator and as a services coordinator. She also worked as member services coordinator at a digital library consortium in North Carolina.

**EMILY LAWSON** joined the Woodruff Health Sciences Center Library as a clinical informationist and coordinator of user outreach. She was recently promoted to head of clinical informationist services. She worked for 14 years at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta as a clinical librarian. Emily has a bachelor’s degree in English from Guilford College and an MSLIS from Drexel University. She also carries her Senior AHIP (Academy of Health Information Professionals) certification from the Medical Library Association (MLA).
KATHRYN MICHAELIS became the digital preservation program manager. She most recently served as the digital projects coordinator at the Georgia State University Library and the special collections digital initiatives librarian for the J.D. Williams Library at the University of Mississippi. Raised in Greenwood, SC, she earned her bachelor’s degree in English from the University of South Carolina and her MLIS from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

TYLER MOSES was promoted to assessment and life sciences informationist. Previously, she served Emory as a visiting librarian through the National Library of Medicine’s (NLM) Associate Fellowship Program. Prior to coming to Emory, she worked as an integrated reading and writing tutor at Palo Alto Community College and completed her spring practicum at the Dolph Briscoe Jr. Library at the University of Texas Health Science Center-San Antonio.

CHENOA PRIMAS became student technology support coordinator for the Student Digital Life team. She worked as a service desk specialist, an information systems administrator for Atlanta Technical College and as a certified technology support specialist for DeKalb County Schools. An Atlanta native, Lawrence has a bachelor’s degree in computer information systems and an MBA in network and communication management. She also carries a CompTIA Network+ certification.

MICHAEL ROBERTSON became the new senior stacks transfer and data specialist in Access and Resource Services. He previously worked in cataloging at the Pitts Library while earning his master’s. Born in Abilene, TX, Robertson was raised in Traverse City, MI, and earned a bachelor’s degree in religion from Central Michigan University. He completed his master of theological studies degree at Emory.

SOFIA SLUTSKAYA became the new head of resource description for Emory Libraries. Before coming to Emory, she did the same work for the Georgia Tech Library. She also served as a librarian at Georgia Perimeter College as well as in Russia. Born in Krasnodar, Russia, Slutskaya earned her MLIS degree at the University of Tennessee, as well as PhD and undergraduate degrees in library science from the Moscow State University of Culture.
ASHLEY STEVENS joined the Woodruff Health Sciences Center Library as historical collections archivist. She previously worked as an archives and research manager at Historic Estates in Michigan, as the education and outreach coordinator at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, and as an archives technician at the National Archives. She has a BA degree from Georgia Southern and her MLIS and MA from the University of South Carolina-Columbia.

DINA THORNTON returned to Emory as the coordinator of the Computing Center at Cox Hall. While away from Emory, she provided programming and video production support for WarnerMedia’s Human Resources department. Previously at Emory, she did academic video production on the Teaching and Learning Technologies team. A graduate of the University of Georgia, she received her degree in telecommunications and film studies.

NICK TWEMLOW became the Rose Library’s new poetry and digital humanities librarian. Before coming to Atlanta, he taught creative writing and film for six years at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, IA. He also worked as a publicist for the local public library. He earned a bachelor’s degree in cognitive science from the University of Kansas, and master’s degrees in writing and film and video production from the University of Iowa.

BRAD WATSON is a software engineer who joined the Library Technology and Digital Strategies team to work on the Digital Library Project. He previously worked as a software support engineer at BioIQ and as a software engineer at Designzillas. Raised in Cherry Hill, NJ, he earned an associate degree of computer information technology from Valencia College. He also holds a certificate in full stack web development from the Flatiron School.
Charitable gifts enable the Emory Libraries to play key roles in the life of the campus and community. Gifts fund new materials and digital innovations, enable the libraries to build expertise, strengthen rare and unique collections, and support collaboration. Among the greatest beneficiaries are students, all of whom depend on the libraries for learning and academic success.

From annual financial contributions to donations of books or materials, gifts of all kinds help the Emory Libraries continue to grow, preserving our intellectual heritage, providing access to scholars, and creating knowledge for generations to come.

Visit emorylib.info/Friends and make a gift today to one of the following funds:

- University Libraries Fund for Excellence
- Library Digital Initiatives
- Library Exhibits and Public Programming Fund
- Linda Matthews (Rose Library) Fund for Excellence
- Preservation Endowment Fund

To support the Emory Libraries through life insurance benefits, a bequest, a retirement plan, stock, real estate, or another type of planned gift, contact Emory’s Office of Gift Planning at 404.727.8875 or giftplanning@emory.edu, and explore giving strategies with experienced professionals versed in finance and tax law.

For more information about in-kind and financial gifts or to learn about other philanthropic opportunities, contact Erin Horeni-Ogle, director of advancement, Emory Libraries, at 404.727.5386 or ehoreni@emory.edu.
Donors support research through Rose Library fellowships

Each year, the Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library awards fellowships to support scholarly use of the Library’s research collections in five strategic areas: English-language literature, the Raymond Danowski Poetry Library, African American history and culture, Southern history and culture, and modern politics. Many of these fellowships are funded by donors either via endowments or restricted giving to support this work.

All the Rose Library research fellows have a clearly articulated topic related to Emory’s wonderful collections. They then spend at least five days in the Rose Library using our materials to further their work. After their fellowship, researchers are asked to share a written report of their work with the collections to be included on the Rose Library’s blog. You can follow their work at scholarblogs.emory.edu/marbl.

Rose Library fellows were awarded over $40,000 in funding for the 2020-2021 academic year and will use materials in the Rose Library collections to further their scholarship on a tremendous variety of subjects. The Rose Library fellows funded by donor support are listed with their research subjects below. (For the full list of Rose Library fellows, please visit rose.library.emory.edu/research-learning/fellowships-awards/visiting-researchers/fellowship-recipients.html)

These fellows, their research and the Rose Library are indebted to the donors who make these fellowships possible. Their foresight and generosity will make a big impact on Emory, on these individual researchers and scholars for years to come.
Billops-Hatch Award
- **Jodi Hays**: The Paul R. Jones Anthology and Exhibition Project
- **Lisa Blatt**: The Paul R. Jones Anthology and Exhibition Project
- **Rachel Stephens**: Hidden in Plain Sight: Slavery and Suppression in Antebellum American Art
- **Sandra Jackson-Opoku**: Black Rice
- **Hayley O’Malley**: Producing Blackness: African American Art and Activism in the 20th Century
- **Jersten Ray Seraile**: God Done Opened the Sky
- **Justin Haynes**: Two Hands to Clap
- **Julie Burrell**: Performing Diasporic Time: Enactments of African American History
- **Dan Gutstein**: Li’l Liza Jane: A Movie About A Song
- **Jill E. Rowe**: Westward Migrations of Free African Americans During the Antebellum Period

Donald C. Locke Award
- **Akima McPherson**: Synchronicities or productive dialogues? Reflecting Guyana in the oeuvre of Donald Locke, a Diaspora Guyanese artist

J. Herman Blake & Emily L. Moore Award for Research in Black Panther Party Collections
- **Sydney-Paige Patterson**: Between Home and City: Radical Private Space in the Black and Dalit Panther Parties
- **Traci Parker**: Beyond Loving: Love, Sex, and Marriage in the Black Freedom Movement

LGBTQ Fellowship
- **Mark Lockwood**: Black Inches: Masculinity, Visuality, and Performance in Thug Pornography

Leonard and Louise Riggio Award
- **Charlotte Teague**: Matriarchal Domains: An Analysis of Spaciality of Power in Representational Novels by African American Women

Nancy & Randall Burkett Award for Research in Black Print Culture Collections
- **Cynthia J. Charles**: The Contributions of Carter G. Woodson Scholarly Resources to African American History Curriculums at HBCUs
- **Sheila Bonner**: Womanist Intellectual Activism: Three Women’s Narratives
- **Sid Ahmed Ziane**: How Ebony Magazine Engaged and Reacted to the Black Power Movement in the 1960s and 1970s
- **Jeong Yeon Lee**: Apocalyptic Violence in the Works of David Walker and James Weldon Johnson
- **Todd Carmody**: Work Requirements: Race, Disability, and Reform in Progressive America
- **Brian Piper**: African American Photographers and the Studio Tradition, 1900-1970
- **Kayleigh Whitman**: Faith in the World Community: Sue Bailey Thurman and Black Women’s World Reconstruction, 1920-1950
- **Taina Douge**: A Mixtape for Congo

Richard A. Long / HBCU Fellowship
- **Arthur M. Reese**: The Importance of the Black Theater Alliance
12th Night celebrates poetry in Rose

On Friday, March 19, Emory Libraries held its 21st annual 12th Night Revel, a poetry celebration and fundraiser for the Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library. What started as a group of friends gathering to read poetry and support the collections in the Rose Library has morphed into an event that attracts top poets from around the world. For the 21st anniversary, Emory welcomed the current U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo, the first Native American to hold the position.

Harjo became the 23rd poet laureate of the United States in 2019 and was recently appointed by the Library of Congress to a rare third term, to begin in September 2021. She is an internationally renowned musician, writer and citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in Oklahoma.

Emory University was founded in 1836 on the historic lands of the Muscogee (Creek) people, 15 years after the First Treaty of Indian Springs (1821) through which the U.S. government acquired this area of land from the Muscogee Nation. After this treaty, many Muscogee people relocated to Alabama, and were then forcibly removed to present-day Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears in 1836. Harjo's poetry directly engages these histories of removal, displacement, dispossession, loss, resilience and resistance.

The virtual 12th Night event also featured Emory President Gregory L. Fenves, Indigo Girls Amy Ray and Emily Saliers, Emory faculty and students, and several surprise poetry readers, including Natasha Trethewey, Richard Blanco, Catherine Heaney and Frieda Hughes.

This year’s chief revelers were Carlos del Rio, executive associate dean of Emory University School of Medicine, professor of medicine, Emory University School of Medicine, and professor of global health and epidemiology, Rollins School of Public Health; and Jeannette Guarner, a pathologist at Emory University Hospital and professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at Emory School of Medicine.

Proceeds from the event benefitted undergraduate awards to fund research opportunities in the Rose Library. To learn more about how to support the Rose Library, please contact Jason Lowery, assistant director of Advancement and Alumni Engagement for Emory Libraries, at Jason.lowery@emory.edu.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS
Beck Foundation empowers first-generation students

The Emory Libraries received a generous grant from the Beck Foundation to help us develop student-centered programming and resources to better support first-generation students. A key goal going into this project was to find ways to listen and learn more about the experiences, needs, and ideas of first-generation students directly from students who identify as first-generation students and the campus partners who work with them.

This grant project received invaluable support from two student workers, senior Leida Cisneros and recent Rollins graduate Michelle Obiokwu. Leida and Michelle, who both identify as first-generation students, conducted research, designed and implemented surveys and interviews, and helped to put together an extensive report with recommendations, resources, and next steps for the Libraries to consider as we work to improve upon existing programming and develop new programs to better support first-generation student populations. The grant team also received support from English PhD student Rebecca McGlynn and the Emory Libraries Student Ambassadors, including co-chairs Aliye Korucu and Olivier Niyibizi.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused work on this grant project to go into unexpected directions, and many of our plans and ideas were delayed or curtailed due to the challenges of the pandemic. Going forward, the Libraries will leverage what we have learned, and the resources we have already developed, to connect with and learn more about the experiences and challenges of first-generation students as we move into a new, post-COVID era.

Based on what we have learned thus far, much of our work will be focused around developing more events and programs, including enhanced orientation and onboarding programming, for first-generation students, partnering with student organizations and campus groups to host events and promote library resources, finding ways to continue to get feedback and hear from first-generation students on how the Libraries can best support them, and focusing on critical issues such as Open Educational Resources.

If you have ideas for how the Libraries can best support first-generation students, we would love to hear from you.

Sarah Morris, head of instruction and engagement

A key goal going into this project was to find ways to listen and learn more about the experiences, needs, and ideas of first-generation students directly from students who identify as first-generation students and the campus partners who work with them.
Hubert H. Whitlow 51C 56G, who passed away in June of 2019, was a faithful Emory Libraries donor with a lifelong connection to the University. Born in 1930 at Emory Hospital, he grew up just four blocks from campus. While attending Druid Hills High School, Mr. Whitlow got his first taste of working in a library, and it became an experience that would give way to a lifetime vocation. After four years in the Air Force, he returned to Emory for his graduate degree in librarianship, and, after a stint at the University of Georgia, he returned to work in Emory’s libraries.

Mr. Whitlow was passionate about all things Emory. He also enjoyed the theater and the symphony, with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra being particular important to him. He was an active member of the “Shot in the Dark” writers’ group in Athens and was working on two novels and a collection of short stories at the time of his death. Mr. Whitlow enjoyed frequent trips to France with his longtime friend and neighbor, Max Gilstrap. Mr. Gilstrap, himself an Emory Graduate, 64G, helped ensure that Mr. Whitlow’s final gifts to Emory were realized.

Mr. Whitlow made his first gift to the University over 50 years ago. Throughout the years, he supported Emory College, the Arts at Emory, and several scholarship funds. He, however, always supported his first love: the Libraries. Gifts to the Literary Collections Fund, the 12th Night Revel Annual Gala, Friends of Emory Libraries, and the Candler Library Expansion and Renovation Fund, to name just a few, made a difference in so many ways. Fittingly, Mr. Whitlow’s final wishes were to support Emory College and Emory Libraries in his estate plans.

Generous gifts to the University Libraries Fund for Excellence and the Linda Matthews Fund for Special Collections will continue his legacy. Reflecting on his giving, Mr. Whitlow once said, “Emory has affected my life in many ways. It taught me to think critically and opened up the world to me.” We are grateful that Hubert Whitlow valued the idea of giving back.
Philanthropic support enables Emory Libraries to serve a vital role in the academic and cultural life of the campus.

Annual financial contributions and donations of rare books, manuscripts, or other materials help the Emory Libraries continue to grow, preserving our intellectual heritage, providing access to scholars, and creating knowledge for generations to come.

MAKE A GIFT TODAY AND JOIN THE COMMUNITY OF DONORS WHO ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT EMORY LIBRARIES.

For more information on giving, contact Erin Horeni-Ogle, director of advancement, Emory Libraries, at 404.727.5386 or ehoreni@emory.edu.