Armstrong Atlantic news and notes

Kristin Stout, a reference and instruction librarian at Armstrong Atlantic State University's Lane Library, has been selected to participate in the American Library Association's (ALA) 2010 Class of Emerging Leaders. The program is designed to enable approximately 100 library workers to get on the fast track to ALA and professional leadership. Participants are given the opportunity to work on a variety of projects, network with peers and get an inside look at the ALA’s structure and activities.

Kennesaw State news and notes

A group of Valdosta State University MLIS students and their professor visited the Bentley Rare Book Gallery in the Horace W. Sturgis Library at Kennesaw State University as part of a course in rare book librarianship in spring 2009. “The rare book collection at Kennesaw is magnificent,” VSU professor Bill Meehan said. “Physical contact with such splendid artifacts makes for a terrific learning experience.”

The group was treated to a hands-on session under the direction of Robert B. Williams, then curator and assistant vice president for library services, who built the collection.

Bentley Rare Book Gallery Assistant Curator Rita Impey-Imes, who also is a VSU MLIS student, directed a tour of the gallery stacks.

“A tactile experience with treasures like the ones in the Bentley Rare Book Gallery can’t be missed,” Meehan added.

University of Georgia news and notes

The University of Georgia Libraries is the recipient of a grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation to save historically significant American films that are unlikely to survive without public support.

“The growing area of scholarship in the film studies field in the last few years is research into itinerant filmmakers and ‘hometown movies’ they made. Itinerants went from town to town all over the United States from the 1920s through the 1950s, making films involving town residents,” said Margie Compton, a film archivist with the Brown Media Archives and Peabody Awards Collection at the UGA Libraries.

The $14,780 NFPF grant will be used to preserve a 1947 Fitzgerald hometown movie, a 1936 Cordele hometown movie’s outtakes, and a home movie of itinerant filmmaker Don O. Newland making the “Americus’ Hero” melodrama in November 1928.

Compton was surprised, after researching Newland, to discover in a home movie donated this year that Americus resident Frank Sheffield Jr. had used his home movie camera to film the action while Newland shot “Americus’ Hero.”

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The Americus home movie was donated by Sheffield’s grandson, F. Sheffield Hale, who learned of the libraries’ interest in preserving home movies. Frank Sheffield Jr. shot his home movies between 1925 and 1965 in his hometown and on travels in the United States and abroad.

“This is a truly lively collection of one man’s life and enthusiasms on 16 mm film,” Compton said.

Films saved through the NFPF programs are made available for on-site research and are seen widely through screenings, exhibits, DVDs, television broadcasts and the Internet. The grants fund the creation of a preservation master and two public-viewing copies of each film.