Personnel News
Computer Science graduate student Arpan Chakraborty checks out the Libraries’ first Google Glass, for accessibility and augmented reality work in the department’s Knowledge Discovery Lab.

Initially, our Google Glass pilot program will be available to selected faculty and graduate students with an urgent research need for the technology. In mid-March the Libraries began accepting requests from other researchers working with augmented reality, innovative computer interfaces, and other key uses of the new tool.

South Carolina

Greenville County Library System News

Sensory Story Time - In the Fall of 2013, the Greenville County Library System broadened its reach with a new monthly story time designed for children with special needs and their families. With the expert advice of various organizations including Greenville Health System’s Children’s Hospital, the Youth Services department created this modified story time that offers fun and educational activity for children while giving parents time to bond and network.

PERSONNEL NEWS:

Alabama

Mervyn Sterne Library’s Stephens to Retire After 40 Years at the University of Alabama at Birmingham

(by Jim Bakken)

Jerry W. Stephens, Ph.D., librarian and director of the Mervyn Sterne Library since 1985, has announced his retirement after a 40-year career at UAB, effective May 31.

“Dr. Stephens has been an exemplary leader for our library over a period of time that has seen university libraries undergo significant changes,” said Provost Linda Lucas. “I thank him sincerely for his service to our university.”

Stephens is only the second librarian UAB has had for its main academic library. He joined the library in 1974 as an accountant when it was a part of the former University College. While holding the title of librarian and director, Stephens also served as assistant vice president for academic affairs and fiscal officer for University College.

“A lot has changed in 40 years, and it has been a great experience to have contributed to the development of UAB,” Stephens said. “As an alumnus, I am proud to say that UAB afforded me the opportunity to gain knowledge that changed my world. It has been an honor and a privilege to have worked with every president and with an extraordinary group of faculty and staff from across UAB. It is easy for an organization to be successful when so many talented and dedicated faculty and staff are focused on helping students and faculty succeed in academic careers. During my tenure at Sterne, I have been blessed with a great team, and it has been an honor to have worked with them.”

Stephens received his bachelor’s degree in accounting and his Master of Business Administration degree from UAB, and has been an Accounting faculty member in the Collat School of Business. He received his Ph.D. in administration in higher education, as well as his Master of Library Science degree, from the University of Alabama.

A national search for the dean of libraries is underway.

The library was named for Birmingham stockbroker and philanthropist Mervyn H. Sterne. He and his wife, Dorah, were significant benefactors of UAB.

Florida

Kelly Robinson Receives the Shirley Olofson Memorial Award

The American Library Association’s (ALA) New Members Round Table (NMRT) and the Shirley Olofson Memorial Award Committee announced that Kelly Robinson, Reference Librarian at the Universal Orlando Foundation (UOF) Library at the UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management, will receive $1,000 to attend the 2014 ALA Annual Conference in Las Vegas, NV this summer.
The Shirley Olofson Memorial Award is presented annually in honor of Shirley Olofson, a well-respected former NMRT President who died during her term in office. The award is intended to help defray costs to attend the ALA Annual Conference. Eligible applicants must be members of ALA and NMRT and have attended fewer than five Annual Conferences. Applicants must also be active in the library profession, show promise or activity in the area of professional development, and have valid financial need.

Kelly Robinson joined the UOF Library as full-time Public Services Librarian in March 2012. Robinson has a Master's in Library and Information Science degree from Florida State University, as well as a Master's in Education from Fairfield University. With prior experience at King College, Florida State University, and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Ms. Robinson was well-prepared to jump in and start making a big impact at the UOF Library. She has several articles to her credit and has done presentations and poster sessions at a variety of conferences: Florida Chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries (FACRL); Florida Library Association (FLA); Information Fluency Conference (Orlando); Appalachian College Association Summit, Asheville; and Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy, Charleston, SC.

“I’m not surprised that Kelly won this award,” commented Tim Bottorff, head librarian at the UOF Library, “because she’s very dedicated to improving herself as a librarian. She is exceptionally active in professional development, service, and research activities, especially for someone so early in her career. She also works well with students and does a tremendous job in her day-to-day duties at the Rosen Library. She represents UCF and the UCF Libraries very well!”

Hal Mendelsohn Receives Excellence in Librarianship Award

At the University of Central Florida Founders Day convocation April 2, 2014, Mr. Hal Mendelsohn, reference librarian and Patents and Trademarks Librarian at the John C. Hitt Library, was honored with the 2014 Excellence in Librarianship Award.

The University has been awarding the Excellence in Librarianship since 1984. Mr. Mendelsohn is the 30th recipient. Chosen by vote of the library faculty coordinated by the Library Faculty Advisory Committee, based on professional activities and letters of recommendation from university faculty, colleagues serving with him on nationwide committees, and fellow UCF librarians and management, it is a highly regarded award and confirmation of the appreciation and respect of the awardee’s contributions to the library and librarianship.

Mr. Mendelsohn joined the University Libraries faculty in April 2001 as a reference and library instruction librarian with collection development duties. Later he took on the role of Patents and Trademarks Librarian. Prior to coming to UCF, he was a librarian at the Arnold LeDoux Library at Louisiana State University at Eunice. He received his MLS from San Jose State University.

Mr. Mendelsohn enjoys being a reference librarian which allows him to interact with students, faculty, staff, and community members by assisting them with their professional, personal, and educational research needs. In addition to his other duties, he organized and coordinates the highly successful Campus Connections program designed to enhance students’ college experiences by introducing them to the different departments on campus. For the first weeks of each semester, departments and organizations such as Diversity Initiatives, Campus Police, Student Academic Resource Center, UCF Radio and TV, Financial Aid, and many more, have an opportunity to interact face-to-face with students.

In October 2012, the Southeastern Library Association created the new “Hal Mendelsohn Award” in his honor recognizing continual, dedicated, and outstanding service to SELA, and presented the first award to Mr. Mendelsohn for his “overall service to librarianship and the Southeastern Library Association.”

Barbara Tierney, Research & Information Services department head, calls Mr. Mendelsohn “a role model to us all for his phenomenal success in sharing the riches of UCF Libraries with students, faculty, and community members. Hal is an extraordinary teacher and colleague who offers his services with exceptional kindness, courtesy, generosity, and a huge smile.”
UCF Librarian Appointed to Federal Depository Library Council

Davita Vance-Cooks, Government Printing Office’s (GPO) Public Printer, announced the five new members to the Depository Library Council (DLC), among them is University of Central Florida Libraries Government Documents Librarian Rich Gause. His three-year term on this prestigious committee begins June 1, 2014. One of an elite group of 220 appointees in a little over 40 years, Mr. Gause is only the fifth representative from a Florida institution. The last Florida member of the Council was appointed in 1996. The Public Printer gathers information from current Council members, library associations, and other appropriate sources before appointing members to the 15-person committee.

Established in 1972, the DLC is an advisory committee to the Public Printer and the Superintendent of Documents. The Federal Depository Library Program was created over 150 years ago as Congress and the GPO, the world’s largest publisher, began looking for ways to get government publications into the hands of the public. Eventually federal depository libraries were established throughout the United States and its territories to further promote the mission to Keep Americans Informed by providing access to and assistance with government publications. The DLC is comprised of representatives from a cross-section of the federal depository libraries and takes on issues equally diverse from technical services issues such as indexing and cataloging to administrative matters like distribution and storage of depository collections to policy recommendations pertaining to the FDLP.

Mr. Gause has been the Government Documents Librarian for the UCF Libraries since April 1998. Prior to his coming to UCF, he was a public librarian for twelve years in the Orange County [Florida] Library System. A native Floridian, he served five years in the Navy after graduating from the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. He received his MLIS from Florida State University. Mr. Gause’s dedication and expertise in promoting GPO materials makes him a favorite of students seeking research assistance at the John C. Hitt Library as well as colleagues throughout the state and nation. He has created or gathered the over 200 research guides on documents for the UCF Libraries (http://guides.ucf.edu/govt?hs=a). Throughout the years he has made presentations at professional association conferences and more recently become active in producing webinars. Mr. Gause’s philosophy of librarianship: Know your collection; know your colleagues; know your profession; and share your knowledge. He has remarked that “the joys of librarianship come from the endless opportunities to learn new things and to teach others. Be passionate about whatever you do.”

Dr. Penny Beile, UCF Libraries Associate Director for Research Information & Scholarly Communication, heartily agrees with the new appointment. “The Public Printer could not have selected a more engaged or dedicated librarian from its list of nominees. We are all extremely proud of Rich and pleased that he’s been recognized for his experience and hard work. I cannot imagine anyone more deserving of this honor.”

Georgia

Clayton State University

Laura Herndon is a compulsive reader and a lifelong Georgia resident who pursued the cataloging track in Valdosta State University’s Master of Library and Information Science program, earning her degree in 2011. She has been employed at Clayton State University Library for over 15 years and is delighted to continue serving the library in a professional capacity as Serials Librarian.

Christopher Stotelymer is 2012 graduate of the MLIS program at Valdosta State University and is the new Electronic Resources Librarian. Prior to coming to CSU, Christopher worked at Georgia State University as a Library Technical Assistant in the Learning Commons. In addition, Christopher has a Pharmacy Degree from Purdue University and an English degree from Georgia State University.
Valdosta State University

Scott Piepenburg has joined the faculty of Valdosta State University Odum Library, Valdosta, GA as Associate Professor of Library Science and Head of Cataloging and Metadata Services. His prior experience includes the position of Cataloging Coordinator at the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point and District Cataloger/System Administrator for the Dallas Independent School District where he was instrumental in bringing up the initial DALLINK project, the first large-urban union catalog in the United States. Scott is the author of the popular Easy MARC series as well as articles on the future of library automation, the history of disc-based recording technology and the role of cataloging AV materials for school and public libraries. He has lectured around the United States on the topics of cataloging in general and authority control in particular and considers himself an “authority control junkie.”

University of West Georgia Faculty

Anne Barnhart, Assistant Professor and Head of Instructional Services, has been promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure at the University of West Georgia effective July 1, 2014. Ms. Barnhart was appointed at UWG in 2009. She previously served as Librarian for Latin American & Iberian Studies, Religious Studies and Chicana/o Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She holds the M.S. in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the M.A. in Latin American and Caribbean Studies and in Religious Studies, and the B.A. in Spanish and Religious Studies with a certificate in Latin American and Caribbean Studies from Indiana University.

Blynne Olivieri, was appointed Head of Special Collections at the University of West Georgia following the retirement of Suzanne Durham. Ms. Olivieri was appointed Assistant Professor and Special Collections Librarian at UWG in December, 2012. She previously served as Pacific Northwest Curator and Assistant Librarian in Special Collections at the University of Washington Libraries in Seattle. She holds the Masters of Library and Information Science, the Master of Arts in Art History, and the Bachelor of Arts in Art History with Distinction from the University of Washington. She received the Certified Archivist designation from the Academy of Certified Archivists in 2013. She is active with the Rare Books and Manuscripts Division of the American Library Association, the Society of Georgia Archivists, and a number of other professional organizations.

Shelley L. Rogers, Associate Professor and Senior Cataloger, has been granted tenure at the University of West Georgia effective July 1, 2014. Ms. Rogers was appointed at UWG in 2008. She previously served as Technical Services Librarian at the Arrowhead Library System in Mountain Iron, Minnesota. She holds the M.I.L.S. in Music Librarianship from the University of Michigan, and the M.Ed. in Cultural Foundations and the B.A. in Music from Kent State University.

Stacey Snyder, who is completing a two year appointment at the University of West Georgia as Ingram Library’s Information Literacy Fellow, has been appointed E-Learning & Instructional Technologies Librarian with Massachusetts Institute of Technology Libraries. Ms. Snyder received the Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2012, and the B.S. in Business Administration with a concentration in Women’s Studies from Drake University. The Information Literacy Fellowship afforded her opportunities to teach Ingram Library’s for-credit LIBR 1101 class “Academic Research and the Library” on both the Carrollton and Newnan campuses of UWG and in the online environment, to provide in-person and online chat reference services, and to attend the American Library Association Annual Conference in 2013 and the Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy during both years of her fellowship.

North Carolina

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Sonoe Nakasone has been appointed as Special Formats and Metadata Cataloger. Ms. Nakasone will catalog geospatial and statistical data, maps, and other data resources. She will advise Library staff members on cataloging and metadata issues related to materials in digital format and will contribute to national cataloging standards. She will also be involved in developing tools and workflows to support the Carolina Digital Repository, which provides access and safekeeping for the scholarly work of UNC researchers.

She worked most recently as a cataloger at the District of Columbia Public Library and previously as the cataloging coordinator for the Field Book Project at the Smithsonian Institution. Both are in Washington, D.C.

She holds a B.A. in English and political science from Howard University and an M.L.I.S. from the Pratt Institute.
Rachel Reynolds has been appointed Coordinator of Special Collections Exhibits and Outreach. Ms. Reynolds will manage the Melba Remig Saltarelli Exhibit Room calendar, assist staff with the design, fabrication, and installation of exhibitions and displays; assist with improvements to public spaces in the Wilson Special Collections Library; and assist staff of the North Carolina Collection Gallery with the management of historic objects and curation of Gallery exhibits.

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Reynolds served as senior museums officer at the Clifton Park Museum in Rotherham, England, as well as working at a number of other cultural institutions in the United Kingdom, including the British Museum and the Museum of London.

She holds the M.Sc. in museum studies from the University of Leicester, England, and a B.A. in history and Latin American Studies from Newcastle University in Newcastle upon Tyne, England.

Stewart Varner has been appointed as the Digital Scholarship Librarian. He will manage a portfolio of digital scholarship – including digital humanities, digital collections, and library technology projects – in close collaboration with faculty, campus partners, and within the Library. He will actively partner with subject librarians and staff from Library departments such as Library and Information Technology and Special Collections.

Prior to this appointment, Mr. Varner served as the digital scholarship coordinator at the Woodruff Library at Emory University.

He holds a B.A. in English literature and American studies from Queens University, an M.A. in popular culture from Bowling Green State University, an M.L.I.S. from the University of North Texas, and a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Emory University.

South Carolina

Florence County Library System

The Florence County Library Board of Trustees has named Philip Alan Smith as the new director of the Florence County Library System. He succeeds library director Ray McBride who retired last year after six years of service. Smith started in his new position on March 10, 2014.

A graduate of the University of South Carolina’s College of Library and Information Science, Smith holds an undergraduate degree from Charleston Southern University. Previously, Smith was appointed Director of the Marion County Library in June 2011. During his tenure there, Smith successfully pursued and acquired funding for branch improvements through a capital projects sales tax and completed a technological overhaul of the library system. The technological improvements were accomplished without additional funding. Smith previously worked in library positions in Horry and Dorchester counties.
Francis Marion University

The James A. Rogers Library at Francis Marion University announces several staffing changes in recent months. Included in the changes was the December 31st retirement of longtime Systems Librarian Pamela B. Radcliffe. Nathan E. Flowers was appointed to serve as interim Systems Librarian and Tammy Ivins was appointed to serve as interim Head of Public Services/Reference Librarian. In addition, Circulation manager Steven C. Sims, was hired as Access Services Librarian and assumed additional responsibilities of managing the Interlibrary Loans operation.

West Virginia

West Virginia University

Dr. Jon E. Cawthorne, Associate Dean for Public Services and Assessment at Florida State University Libraries, has been named dean of libraries at West Virginia University.

“Dr. Cawthorne brings a winning combination of experience and visionary thinking to WVU,” said Michele Wheatley, WVU provost and vice president for academic affairs. “As we work to achieve some ambitious goals for our libraries, I am excited to know that we will do so under his leadership.”

Dr. Cawthorne said, “I am thrilled to join a great institution at this time in their history. With so much support from the students, faculty and administration, I look forward to working with everyone to advance WVU Libraries in the years to come.”

Dr. Cawthorne, who began his new position on March 17, currently manages assessment, services and staffing in Strozier, Dirac Science and Engineering libraries and leads a writing institute for librarians and staff called, Braggin’ Writes. He recently completed his Ph.D. dissertation, Viewing the Future of University Research Libraries through the Perspectives of Scenarios, and is working on a guidebook for libraries on the process of scenario planning.

Dr. Cawthorne is co-principal investigator on two national Andrew Mellon Foundation grants. One explores new library service models (Centers of Excellence) and the other investigates the competencies needed to support Digital Scholarship in leading international universities. Dr. Cawthorne is scheduled to travel to Brazil, China, the U.K. and Japan in 2014.

He has consulted on creating underrepresented minority internships in research libraries and published articles on diversity, shared leadership and the importance of outreach. Prior to his current position, Dr. Cawthorne worked at Boston College Libraries, San Diego State and Detroit Public Library and participated in Association of Research Libraries’ Research Library Leaders Fellows Program, UCLA Senior Fellows and the Frye Leadership Institute. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in English and Radio Communication from Evergreen State College and Master of Library Science from the University of Maryland at College Park.

The WVU Libraries have an annual budget in excess of $14 million, more than half of which is committed to maintaining and adding to the collection. The libraries’ collections include more than 2.1 million books. In addition, the libraries provide access to more than 350,000 eBooks, 45,700 electronic journals and 246 electronic databases, and house the West Virginia and Regional History Center. The libraries are central to WVU’s teaching and research missions and goals.

Robert Jones, dean of WVU’s Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, led the search committee that chose four candidates from a pool of applicants to visit campus in late 2013.

“Jon has an impressive vision for all three missions of the land grant university and a record of successful collaboration across disciplines and academic units. His excellent leadership skills are going to serve WVU well as we strive for the next level of national prominence,” Jones said.

Executive search firm Greenwood-Asher assisted the university with the search.

Myra Lowe, a long-time WVU librarian and administrator, has been serving very capably as interim dean of libraries since January of 2012. This was Lowe’s second time serving as interim dean; she served in the same capacity from 1998-1999.

“Myra has been invaluable to the WVU libraries and to the whole university over the past few years,” Wheatly said. “We are so grateful to her for assuming a leadership role during a critical transition period.”