News - Kennesaw State University

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Kennesaw State University

Five new full-time librarians were hired at the Horace W. Sturgis Library in February.

The Library welcomes:

Eli Arnold, Information Commons Librarian, Assistant Professor of Library Science,
Adam Olsen, Virtual Services Librarian, Assistant Professor of Library Science,
Michael Luther, Assessment Librarian, Assistant Professor of Library Science,
Ana Guimaraes, Information Commons/Collection Development Librarian, Assistant Professor of Library Science,
Jennifer Sutcliffee Young, Systems Librarian, Assistant Professor of Library Science

Ms. Rita Impey-Imes, VSU MLIS 2009 graduate, former curator of the KSU Bentley Rare Book Gallery, died on Wednesday, February 14, 2013. She began her career at the Sturgis Library at Kennesaw State University in 1996. At the Sturgis Library, Ms. Impey-Imes assumed a broad spectrum of duties and responsibilities, including cataloging, book repair, volunteer coordinator, disaster planning and recovery, training, exhibition planning, and outreach.

In 2005 she began to work with the Bentley Rare Book Gallery, a collection of rare books, manuscripts, and documents illustrating the history of the book in the English-speaking world. She quickly assumed the duties of assistant curator. In 2009, Ms. Impey-Imes moved with the gallery to the Department of Archives and Records Management.

Rita’s passion was bringing the Rare Book Collection to the public. She was a gifted storyteller, building a loyal following of students, staff, and faculty who brought their classes, friends, and colleagues to see the collection. Rita was much beloved on campus and in the greater community for her outreach.

The Friends of the KSU Sturgis Library group had a standing-room-only event for Black History Month. Jeff Clemmons, author of Rich’s: A Southern Institution, lectured on “Rich’s Department Store, MLK, and JFK—Historical Links to the Civil Rights Movement.” The connection of those two famous men with the famous Atlanta department store was a fascinating bit of history.

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Her enthusiasm for special collections inspired many to pursue careers in libraries.

In October 2012, the Kennesaw State University Archives created the Rita Impey-Imes Rare Book Conservation Fund to honor Ms. Impey-Imes’ passionate work and devotion to the Rare Book Gallery. Funds will be used for the conservation of books, prints, manuscripts and leaves in the Bentley Rare Book Gallery, allowing them to be seen, held, studied and treasured by generations to come. For more information regarding the fund: https://web.kennesaw.edu/archives/rita-impey-imes-rare-book-conservation-fund.