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South Georgia Regional Director to Retire

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Leebaw appointed to post at Emory Library

Danya Leebaw has been appointed a business research librarian in the Goizueta Business Library of Emory University's Robert W. Woodruff Library.

Danya completed a master of library and information science degree in August 2006 at the University of Pittsburgh. While working on her degree, she worked concurrently in two graduate internships and a part-time position. Previously, Danya worked for eight years in the corporate sector in marketing and media. ▶▶

Smyrna library celebrates a life of service

On January 31, former Smyrna Public Library Director Doris Patterson Morris was honored at a dedication ceremony for a library meeting room named in her honor. Her husband, Max, children, extended family, friends, library patrons and local political leaders attended the ceremony and reception. Mrs. Morris began working in the library, where she shared her love of reading with thousands of children, in 1972. She was director of the library from 1982-1987.



Current library Director Michael Seigler (left) chats with Mrs. Morris.

During that time, she established the classic antique book collection and oversaw the feasibility study that resulted in the new library completed on the Village Green. In 1995 Mrs. Morris came out of retirement to serve as interim director until the current director, Michael

Seigler, was hired. Mrs. Morris also played a major role in developing the library at Smyrna's First Baptist Church and served as Sunday school director.

Established by volunteers in 1936, the Smyrna Public Library is the only city-operated library in Georgia and has a collection of more than 100,000 items. ▶▶

South Georgia Regional director to retire

Liza Newsom, director of the South Georgia Regional Library System (SGRL), is retiring after 11-plus years of exceptional service. Liza's contributions to the library, library staff, community and library patrons have not gone unnoted, and she will be greatly missed by all. Liza taught in the Lowndes County and Valdosta City school systems for 14 years before becoming director of the Brooks County Library System, where she worked for

seven years. She started her work as director of SGRL in 1995 and has been witness to a number of significant changes within the system.

"By far the biggest change has been the Internet," Liza said. Thanks in large part to the Gates Foundation, SGRL now has 80 public access computers in their library system, a wireless computer lab with 24 computers at the main library, and a heavy schedule of free computer classes. She remembers how folks said computers were going to create a paperless society, and the Internet was going to make libraries obsolete. But within her first year as director, SGRL had a 63 percent increase in library visits. "The number of people using our libraries climbs every year, and I accredit that to our dedicated staff," she says.

"We were determined that people were going to use our libraries, and if they wouldn't come to us, we'd go to them," she recalls. Library staff members visit schools, both public and private, every day, and book van staff members have become vital library ambassadors. Because of all this activity, SGRL has led the state in the number of children per capita attending library programs for years. More than 80,000 have participated in programs for each of the past five years.

"There's a direct correlation between strong libraries and strong communities," Liza says. "I want the people in our community to see the neighborhood library as a community center and a tool to enrich and enhance their lives and their children's lives."

Liza cites *The Valdosta Daily Times* and the local Friends of the Library as library heroes. According to Liza, the paper has promoted the library and its events "shamelessly," and in many ways the newspaper staff deserves much of the credit for advances the library has made in the past decade. And, of course, the Friends of the Library are near and dear to her heart. "These are the folks who treasure the library and celebrate the joys of reading," Liza says. Over the past decade, the Friends have donated more than \$500,000 to the SGRL library collections. The once moldy collection has been replaced

Library Director Liza Newsom (center) is flanked by Friends and co-workers at a retirement gathering on March 22.



with brand-new books, expanding the collection by more than 75,000 items.

Although Liza said it was a difficult decision to retire, she knew it was time to move to the next phase of her life. "I have been so lucky. I have worked with so many wonderful people — my colleagues, my board members, our patrons. I have been one of the fortunate few to have a job I absolutely loved," she said.

In retirement, Liza plans to put her organizational skills to good use and possibly join her fellow workers in volunteering. "One of the best things about working at the library," she says, "is meeting all of our wonderful volunteers: John Thomas, Laura Daughtery, Lynn Devery, Kay Scott, Jan Feese, Merrilee Casady, John and Kate Swiderski, Anita Shelton, Sarah Smart, Jody Leonard and many more. They've set a wonderful example for me." ►►

Tech retirees account for 95 years of service

Kathy Brackney, head of the Architecture Library; Jean Hudgins, head of Information Control and Management; and Crit Stuart, associate director for Public Services retire from the Georgia Tech Library in spring 2007.

Kathy Sharp Brackney came to Georgia Tech as a reference librarian in July 1977 after earning her masters in librarianship from Emory University. She has a bachelor's in history earned in 1972. Kathy served as a reference librarian from 1977 to 1980 before taking over the library's document delivery service. In 1982, she assumed responsibility for managing the Architecture Library and she's served well there ever since. Focusing her professional activities on art and architecture, Kathy has provided direction for this branch library and contributed frequently with papers at meetings of the Association of Architecture School Librarians. She distinguished herself by winning the college's Staff Service Award in 2001. According to Dr. Thomas Galloway, dean of the College of Architecture, Ms. Brackney has played a substantial role in deepening the college's instructional and scholarly resources. He stated, "Kathy's impact on the college through her leadership has been immense and all of us in the college will miss her greatly."

In 1974, Jean Price Hudgins joined the staff of the library as library assistant. From that time until 1977 Jean worked part-time for the library while matriculating on her masters in librarianship at Emory. She returned to work full time in 1977 and was appointed to a faculty position in 1978. Jean took over as head of monographic cataloging in 1979 and became head of Information

Control and Management in 1992. She has served assertively to keep the library's complex agenda of bibliographic control moving forward effectively. Outside the library, Jean has been actively engaged with both ALA and SLA throughout her career, where she has given numerous papers and presentations as well as worked diligently to help shape the transition of the cataloging profession as the digital workplace matures. Jean won the prestigious Kaiser Award from the Georgia Tech Library in 2004 for her leadership and exceptional management of her department and as an early adopter of metadata and cataloging technologies.

Crit (Charles Crittendon) Stuart joined the staff at Georgia Tech as a library assistant in 1975 not long after receiving his bachelor's degree in history from the University of Arkansas.

After taking the opportunity in 1979 to work part-time while studying for his masters in librarianship at Emory, Crit returned to work full time in 1980 as the assistant head of circulation. Following several promotions to higher levels of management through the circulation, document delivery and interlibrary loan units, Crit became associate director for public services in 2000. Since that time, Crit has ably managed the consolidation of the various components of public services into a successful partnership with other campus service entities as the profession transitions toward a more collaborative approach to information support services.

His leadership includes collaborative reconfiguration of public services and computing center support activities resulting in one of the most creative enterprises of its kind in the United States. The integrated East and West Commons areas of the library provide a model for the country that has eventually led Crit to retire from Georgia Tech to assume programmatic leadership for the Association of Research Libraries' new agenda to incorporate restructure information commons throughout the U.S. academic and research libraries. Crit won the prestigious Kaiser Award from the Georgia Tech Library in 2005 for his leadership and vision for academic library services and student engagement. He has been active professionally and given numerous papers and presentations. ►►



Brackney, Hudgins (seated) and Stuart