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Atlanta-Fulton County News and Notes

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Emory University news and notes

Naomi Nelson, Ph.D., has been named the interim director of Emory University's Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library (MARBL). Nelson's appointment, effective Oct. 1, was announced upon the news that MARBL's previous director, Steve Ennis, Ph.D., accepted an appointment as the Eric Weinmann Librarian at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C.

Nelson has worked for the Emory Libraries since 1991 and has served as assistant director of MARBL since 2004. As interim director, she will inaugurate a program to provide digital access to some of MARBL's most treasured materials and will continue planning for a new MARBL building that will bring rare books and manuscripts together with the latest digital technologies. Nelson earned a Ph.D. in history from Emory in 2001 and a master's degree in library science from the University of Pittsburgh in 1991. "We are thrilled to have someone on our team with Naomi Nelson's experience who knows our collections so well," said Rick Luce, vice provost and director of Emory University Libraries. "I'm pleased that Naomi has agreed to step into this role."

Ennis, an Emory alumnus (master's degree in librarianship, 1983) who holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of Georgia, began work at the Folger in January. In addition to overseeing library operations and acquisitions, he will lead initiatives to expand access to rare materials in the Folger's collections. During 15 years at MARBL, Ennis led the library in acquiring important papers of major American, British and Irish writers — among them Ted Hughes, Salman Rushdie, Alice Walker, Seamus Heaney and Flannery O'Connor — and helped turn MARBL into one of the fastest growing and most important literary research centers in the United States. Said Folger Library Director Gail Kern Paster: "Steve has had a remarkable career building Emory's Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library into a formidable collection and a thriving intellectual center. I know he will be just as successful at the Folger."

Emory has begun an international search for a permanent director of MARBL. ►►

Roosevelt's Oglethorpe speech resonates

In recent weeks, guest columnists for *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Independent* have quoted a famous speech delivered by Franklin D. Roosevelt from 1932, in which Roosevelt touched on the economic difficulties of the day. The original document of the historic speech — which was given as a commencement

address at Oglethorpe University in 1932 — was displayed at the Oglethorpe University Museum of Art in October. The speech, typed in blue ink and signed by Roosevelt, addresses the economic hardships of the nation during the Great Depression and offers advice to a nation staggering under economic uncertainty — a message that resonates in today's uncertain economic climate. The full transcript of Roosevelt's address can be found online at <http://georgiainfo.galileo.usg.edu/FDRspeeches/FDRspeech32-1.htm>. ►►

Valdosta State University news and notes

Dawn Cadogan has been appointed reference librarian and instructor of library science at Odum Library at Valdosta State University. Cadogan graduated with her MSLIS from Syracuse University in August 2008. She was a library specialist at the Robert W. Woodruff Library at the Atlanta University Center while completing her MSLIS. ►►



Cadogan

Atlanta-Fulton County news and notes

On Election Day, 65 percent of Fulton County voters agreed on a \$275 million bond referendum that will significantly enhance their public libraries. The bonds will provide funding for eight new libraries, expansion of two renovated libraries and renovation of 23 libraries. Atlanta-Fulton Public Library (AFPL) System is the largest in the state of Georgia, and this will be the most extensive library building program in state history.

The plan maintains 34 libraries, the current number of libraries in the system, by eliminating leased spaces and its oldest libraries. Fulton County last issued a library bond in 1985.

"This vote affirms the value people place on their public libraries and their understanding of what libraries provide, especially in challenging economic times," said John F. Szabo, Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System director. "The significant improvement this vote will bring is the missing piece of functional, beautiful buildings to complement the excellent service we have always provided. This is also a tremendous day for the children of Fulton County, particularly those served by severely inadequate facilities or no facilities at all."

A summary of the Library Master Plan is available on the AFPL Web site, www.afpls.org. ►►