

Summer 6-1-2020

## SELA/General News, Library News, and Personnel News

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## SELA NEWS

### In Support of Justice and Solidarity

The recent tragedies of the murder of unarmed African Americans by white police officers (George Floyd in Minneapolis and Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Ky.) and white vigilantes (Ahmaud Arbery in Brunswick, Ga.) are only the most recent examples of an ongoing crisis in American society. As a country, we still have not resolved the problem of racial oppression and violence, a legacy of a long history of racism and slavery.

The Southeastern Library Association stands in support of those peacefully protesting these grave injustices. As a professional organization, SELA stands in support of all library employees, all library patrons, and all members of our communities as we attempt to honestly and constructively face down the forces of racism and bigotry. There is a lot of work to do. Libraries can serve as a resource providing information in a safe and neutral place, whether physically or online, for people to find out what these recent tragedies mean and how they are simply the most recent manifestations of an old problem. As librarians, library administrators, and library employees in general we can support our African American and other colleagues and co-workers and let them know that they are all valued and included.

To quote Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., quoting from the Book of Amos, "Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream."

Tim Dodge  
President  
Southeastern Library Association

### Georgia Libraries Conference Moves Online

Due to the health threat posed by COVID-19, the Georgia Libraries Conference committee has made the difficult decision to shift the 2020 conference to a virtual format. Moving to a virtual conference was a necessary decision based on the uncertainty about the likelihood of a Fall spike in COVID-19 cases, the lack of a vaccine for the illness, and the devastating impact of the current shutdown on the state budget that funds many of our library travel budgets. We look forward to seeing everyone in person for the 2021 conference.

Planning for a virtual conference is underway, and details will be forthcoming. Those who submitted proposals for the October conference will be contacted regarding the process for consideration for virtual presentations, and those still working on proposals are encouraged to collaborate with colleagues to submit panel presentations. We look forward to embracing this new format to allow even more participants to enjoy the conference this year. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we shift to a virtual 2020 GLC / SELA conference.

Though we feel it is the right decision to protect the health of our attendees, GLA will experience a significant financial hardship due to the in-person conference cancellation. If you value the opportunities for education, connection, and growth provided by GLA, please renew your membership, and consider making a donation to help keep our association financially sound for the future. Your support now will protect these opportunities for years to come.

Laura Burtle, J.D., M.S.L.S  
2020 President  
Georgia Library Association  
404-413-2706 | [lburtle@gsu.edu](mailto:lburtle@gsu.edu)

### Rothrock Award Call for Nominations

The Southeastern Library Association is seeking nominations for the prestigious Mary Utopia Rothrock Award to be presented at the joint Georgia Library Association/Southeastern Library Association All-Virtual Conference October 7-9, 2020. The purpose of the award is to honor a librarian who has contributed substantially to librarianship and library development in the southeast during their career.

Although nothing in the award criteria states that the award winner must be a SELA member individuals making the nominations must be SELA members.

The award criteria and nomination process is available at <http://www.selaonline.org/sela/awards/10rothrock.html>. Please submit nominations via email or U.S. mail to Sharon Parente by July 31, 2020.

Sharon Parente  
SELA Rothrock Award Committee  
MTSU  
P.O. Box 13  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132  
(615) 898-2549 (w)  
[Sharon.Parente@mtsu.edu](mailto:Sharon.Parente@mtsu.edu)

## LIBRARY NEWS:

### *North Carolina*

#### *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

### **The Gift of Wonder: Rare Book Collection Coming to Carolina - Distinguished Alumna Florence Fearington Donates Rare Book Collection Worth \$6.2 Million to the University Libraries.**

Florence Fearington '58, one of the preeminent female rare book collectors of our time and a longtime supporter of UNC-Chapel Hill, has donated nearly 4,000 books and objects valued at \$6.2 million to the University of North

Carolina at Chapel Hill University Libraries, where they will become part of the Wilson Special Collections Library.

The collection includes 1,900 rare books, most on the subject of natural history, including beautifully illustrated books on malacology — the study of shells and mollusks — and books, catalogs and prints on Wunderkammern, or “cabinets of curiosity.” The collection also includes a number of pre-1915 children’s books, 13 color-plate costume books and thousands of reference books that complement the subject matter of the rare books.

All of these books will soon be available to patrons — students, faculty, researchers and the general public. Once catalogued, the collection will also be available online.

In addition, Wilson Library is planning an exhibition of the malacology books in spring 2021 — but this won’t be the first time Carolina will see books and ephemera from this intriguing collection. In 2012, Fearrington curated an exhibition, *Rooms of Wonder: From Wunderkammer to Museum, 1599–1899*, mostly drawn from her collection of books about Wunderkammern, at The Grolier Club in New York City. A version of this exhibition was displayed at Wilson Library in 2014.

Fearrington’s previous contributions to Carolina include gifts to University Libraries’ Rare Book Collection, and she established the Joseph Peyton Fearrington and James Cornelius Pass Fearrington Fund at the Health Sciences Library.

In 2016, she gave \$5 million in support of the Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library, earmarking \$1 million to help update the grand reading room and adjacent exhibition areas in Wilson Library. The remaining \$4 million created the Fearrington Special Collections Library Fund. The University Librarian and the director of the Louis Round Wilson Library may use income from this endowment to meet emerging needs and pursue opportunities that benefit Carolina students and enhance the work of researchers. In recognition of this substantial gift, the grand reading room in Wilson Library was renamed the Fearrington Reading Room.

Fearrington grew up in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and received a degree in mathematics from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1958. Unable to attend business school at Carolina because the program did not yet admit women, she earned a certificate from the Harvard-Radcliffe Program in Business in 1961. She moved to New York City, where she made her name in the male-dominated world of finance, establishing Florence Fearrington Inc., a highly successful money management firm. She sold the firm to U.S. Trust in 1997 — around the time she started seriously collecting rare books.

Fearrington was honored as a distinguished alumna at University Day in 2016 for her pioneering career in finance and achievements as a collector of rare books. She currently lives in New Orleans, Louisiana. Her most recent gift counts toward the University’s most ambitious

fundraising campaign in history, [For All Kind: the Campaign for Carolina](#), launched in October 2017. As of June 2020, the University has raised more than two-thirds of its goal to reach \$4.25 billion by December of 2022

## Virginia

### Virginia Tech Virtual VE Day Celebrates Volunteers and More Than 200,000 World War II Document Transcriptions

Edward Gitre, an assistant professor in the Department of History in the Virginia Tech College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, teamed up with University Libraries experts Sarah Mease, Corinne Guimont, and Joe Forte to host a VE Day virtual celebration in collaboration with Zooniverse. This event celebrated the completion of a crowdsourcing drive to transcribe handwritten survey responses from World War II soldiers as part of [The American Soldier project](#).

Victory in Europe Day, also known as VE Day, celebrates the Allies’ formal acceptance of Nazi Germany’s unconditional surrender in World War II on May 8, 1945.

The ultimate purpose of the project, funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, is to become a part of a searchable site enabling researchers, students, and the public to easily find documents related to their interests.

The online milestone celebration took place on May 8, 2020, on the 75th anniversary of VE Day. The event celebrated the completion of The American Soldier project’s 65,000 transcriptions of uncensored reflections on war and military service and recognized the thousands of dedicated volunteers who made this possible. The one-of-a-kind records were transcribed in triplicate over two years, bringing the number of transcriptions to more than 190,000 pages.

These documents contain many fascinating, firsthand responses and unique perspectives. “When people read these they see the Second World War in a humanized way, and gain perspective from soldiers of all walks of life,” said Mease, University Libraries publishing services specialist. “They make it easier to see the realities of the war, instead of just viewing it as a historic event that happened a long time ago. That’s important, especially for those teaching and learning about the war.”

Originally scheduled to be held in the Newman Library Athenaeum, this 75th anniversary commemorative event moved entirely online. In March, an unexpected surge of traffic hit Zooniverse as people began staying home and teleworking became the norm. The project accelerated as volunteers invested more time in transcribing to meet the project’s ambitious goals. Although the transition to an online-only celebration was challenging, it

ultimately provided attendees with multiple levels of interaction.

“There are challenges all the time,” said Gitre. “But I do try to see them as moments for creative intervention and possibility.”

The University Libraries’ Virginia Tech Publishing became involved in the project several years ago, when it hosted the first of several transcribe-a-thons. Newman Library provided a space for transcribers to learn how to use the platform, collaborate on transcriptions, and discuss what they found in the original documents.

Three additional faculty members from the University Libraries joined Mease, Forte, and Guimont in becoming involved in the project, including Marc Brodsky, public services archivist; Nathaniel Porter, social science data consultant and data education coordinator; and Michael Stamper, data visualization designer and consultant for the arts.

Other major Virginia Tech contributors to The American Soldier project include Kurt Luther, the initiative’s technical director and an associate professor of computer science in the College of Engineering; Nai-Ching Wang, a project developer who earned his doctorate from the Department of Computer Science in 2018; [Michael Hughes](#), social science consultant and a professor in the Department of Sociology; and Jessica Brabble, a master’s student in the Department of History.

The American Soldier team is gearing up to move into the next phase, which is to clean and organize the data gathered from the transcriptions as well as other Army survey data. Then they will develop and launch the free, open access, searchable, user interface for scholars and the public, slated for a spring 2021 release. The team will be working with a Portland-based digital design agency, [Cast Iron Coding](#), to create the open access website so these documents can be shared with the world.

The team’s eagerness to share this information widely drove this project. “The inspiration of the project is the individual voices expressed through these handwritten, now-transcribed documents. These were written by soldiers in their own hands,” said Gitre. “They make you laugh and feel anger, pride, sympathy, and all sorts of other emotions. While reading these sources, you will encounter World War II in a way you’ve not before, no matter how much you know or have read about the war or how many museums or monuments you’ve visited.”

*Excerpts from an article written by Elise Monsour Puckett*

## PERSONNEL NEWS:

### North Carolina

*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

#### **Project Archivist in the Wilson Special Collections Library**

The University Libraries at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is pleased to announce the appointment of **Meaghan Alston** as project archivist in the Wilson Special Collections Library.



In this position, Alston will lead efforts to provide access to a wide variety of legacy manuscript collections through close collaboration with colleagues in Wilson Library. She will appraise manuscript and archival materials; shepherd collections through accession and intake; support efforts to evaluate, appraise and improve access to backlog collections; and address outstanding questions about ownership, restrictions and access.

Prior to this appointment, Alston was prints and photograph librarian at the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University, in Washington, D.C. Before that, she was project archivist at the University of Pittsburgh.

Alston holds a M.L.I.S with a concentration in archives and information science from the University of Pittsburgh and a B.A. in history from Ohio State University.

#### **Health Sciences Librarian at the Health Sciences Library**

The University Libraries at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is also pleased to announce the appointment of **Emily Jones** as health sciences librarian at the Health Sciences Library.



In this role, Jones will respond to a range of search requests in a variety of health subject areas and provide client-centered information, education and research services. She will work with colleagues to advise clients on information sources, data management, scholarly communications and emerging library services. She will also collaborate with faculty to integrate critical thinking, critical appraisal of literature and information and digital literacy at key junctures throughout the curricula on and off campus.

Prior to this appointment, Jones was a research and education informationist and an instructor at the Medical University of South Carolina Libraries, in Charleston.

Jones holds an M.L.I.S. and a B.A. in liberal studies from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

**Associate Head of Software Development Department**

Lastly, the University Libraries at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is pleased to announce the appointment of **Emily Brassell** as associate head of the software development department.



Brassell’s management responsibilities will include the University Libraries’ core public web infrastructure; archival information management systems; library catalog discovery systems; and funded special projects that enable scholarly, research and teaching and learning partnerships in the community.

Brassell will advocate for and lead the implementation of robust web application portfolio management (APM) and systems analysis practices, including automated testing, software documentation, user-centered system design and the responsible stewardship of software inspired by DevOps practices and design.

She will provide leadership for cross-departmental initiatives with major technical requirements, collaborating closely with units across the Library and University that have related service missions. She will model an approach to user-centered design that values a range of contributions throughout the systems development lifecycle, and she will contribute to open-source software projects.

Prior to this appointment, Brassell was application development project manager for the University Libraries at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Brassell holds an M.S. in information studies from UNC-Chapel Hill and a B.A. in math and French from Guilford College, in Greensboro, North Carolina.

*University of North Carolina at Greensboro*

**Samantha Harlow Awarded the DLS Routledge Distance Learning Librarianship Conference Sponsorship Award by ACRL**

**Samantha (Sam) Harlow**, online learning librarian and assistant professor for University Libraries has been awarded the 2020 DLS Routledge Distance Learning Librarianship Conference Sponsorship Award by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL).

Sponsored by Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group, Harlow will receive \$1,200 to attend the America Library Association’s (ALA) Annual Conference and a plaque to honor her accomplishments. The award acknowledges any individual ACRL member working in the field of, or contributing to the success of, distance learning librarianship or related library service in higher education.



The award is administrated by the ACRL Distance Learning Section (DLS). Nominees for the award must have demonstrated achievements in one or more of the following areas:

- Support for distance learning librarianship and library services, e.g., service to students and faculty, innovation and/or leadership
- Participate in the creation and/or implementation of distance library programs or services of exemplary quality
- Successful collaboration with faculty in support of information literacy and/or other aspects of library instruction or services for distance students
- Significant research, publication or presentations in areas of distance learning librarianship

Harlow holds a master of science in library and information science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a bachelor of arts in cinema studies from New York University. Prior to joining University Libraries, Harlow was an instructional technology consultant for the School of Education at UNC Greensboro. Prior to joining UNCG, Harlow was the media and digital resource librarian at High Point University and the digital production manager at Triangle Research Libraries Network.

**Steven Cramer Awarded the 2020 BRASS Excellence in Business Librarianship**

**Steven (Steve) Cramer**, business librarian, associate professor and Coleman Fellow for Entrepreneurship Education for University Libraries at UNC Greensboro has been awarded the 2020 BRASS Excellence in Business Librarianship by the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA) division of the American Library Association (ALA).



Sponsored by Mergent by FTSE Russell, the BRASS Excellence in Business Librarianship Award was established in 1989 and offers \$4,000 and a citation to a librarian that has distinguished themselves in the field of business librarianship. The selection of a recipient is accomplished through a review of written nominations by the BRASS Award for Excellence in Business Librarianship Committee.

As a Coleman Fellow for Entrepreneurship Education, Cramer teaches, inspires and mentors students at UNCG who are in non-business disciplines to gain self-employment skills and experience in entrepreneurial ventures.

Cramer holds a master’s degree in library and information science from UNC Chapel Hill and a bachelor of arts degree in medieval and renaissance studies from the University of Michigan. Prior to joining UNCG, he served as the digital services librarian and business specialist at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina and as a librarian at Davenport College (now University) of Business in Holland, Michigan.

**Maggie Murphy Named as Library Journal’s 2020 Movers and Shakers — Educators**

**Maggie Murphy**, first-year writing, visual art and humanities librarian and assistant professor for UNC Greensboro’s University Libraries, has been named as one of *Library Journal’s* 2020 Movers & Shakers — Educators. With this recognition, Murphy joins a distinguished group of librarians that are creating strategies to make libraries more inclusive for everyone, while implementing groundbreaking approaches to literacy, learning and teaching. Movers & Shakers is sponsored by Baker & Taylor and SAGE.

In 2019, Murphy launched the “Uplifting Memes” project in an effort for students in all disciplines to think about art and visual media as sources of information along with textual information sources. Participants learned about copyright and public domain, visual rhetoric and more.



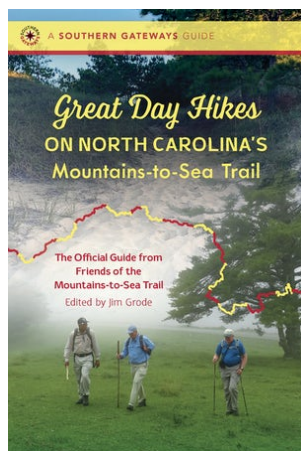
The project is the recipient of the 2019-2020 University Libraries Innovation and Program Enrichment Grant, and it is aimed at connecting students with library resources and spaces. At the same time, “Uplifting Memes” addresses critical, intersecting literacies that help students develop “transformative life skills necessary to be informed and engaged in society” and navigate “digital resources and content” (UNCG University Libraries Strategic Plan, 2018-19) through the theme of memes. Other University Libraries’ collaborators to the “Uplifting Memes” project

include Brown Biggers, systems programmer, and Jenny Dale, information literacy coordinator and associate professor.

Murphy holds a master's degree in library and information science from Rutgers University and a bachelor of arts degree in liberal arts from Sarah Lawrence College. Prior to joining UNCG, she served as a reference and instruction librarian at Georgia Highlands College, a visual resources curator at Queens College-City University of New York and an evening and weekend reference librarian at St. Francis College.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Great Day Hikes on North Carolina's Mountains-to-Sea Trail (Southern Gateways Guide).** Jim Grode. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2020. ISBN: 978-1-4696-5485-0. 232 p. \$24.00 (Pbk.)



This work is about the mountains-to-sea trail of North Carolina. The author resides in Asheville, North Carolina. He is the Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail director. The writing style is easy to understand, and entertaining.

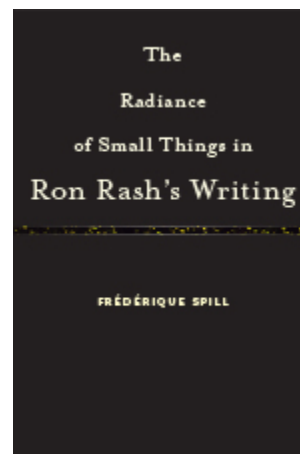
The guide describes forty hikes from The Great Smokies Clingmans Dome to Fork Ridge Trail Hike 1 to Hike 40 Jockey's Ridge State Park covering one thousand one hundred seventy five miles. Each description of a hike includes a beautiful vividly color photograph, distance, degree of difficulty, trail type, trailhead, trailhead 1 coordinates, trailhead 1 elevation, trailhead 2, trailhead 2 coordinates, trailhead 2 elevation, total elevation change, MST segment, highlights, dogs, hike overview, driving directions, hike directions, special considerations, for more information, and an excellent greatly detailed map. Very nifty and helpful to hikers is a Day hike locations and numbers map. The map shows all the cities along the mountains-to-sea trail including Asheville, Boone, Elkin, Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Burlington, Durham, Raleigh, Clayton, Smithfield, Newton Grove, White Lake, Wilmington, Jacksonville, New Bern, Havelock, and Nags Head. A Hike table lists the forty hikes, MST segment,

One-way or loop distance, and difficulty. A Hike Finder provides nine types of interests including Birding and Wildlife, History Buffs, Unique Ecology or Geology, Waterfalls, Wildflowers, North Carolina's Small Towns, Water Lovers, Summer Cooldown, and Universal Accessibility, and the relating hikes. For example, a hike to see birding and wildlife is Moores Creek National Battlefield Loop.

Other intriguing things to see along the trail are ducks, waterfowls, pelicans, marsh wrens, turtles, kite flying, gliding, dwarf palmettos, nineteenth century Burgaw Presbyterian Church, songbirds, warblers, mid eighteenth century Harmony Hall Plantation, Beirut Memorial, the brick lighthouse at Cape Hatteras, three hundred sixty five types of birds at Pea Island, and the Croatan National Forest. The invaluable treasure on the mountains-to-sea trail of North Carolina is essential for academic and public libraries and excellent as a gift for hikers interested in North Carolina. The recommendation for audience is anyone interested in hiking or learning about the splendid mountains-to-sea trail of beautiful North Carolina.

*Melinda F. Matthews*  
University of Louisiana at Monroe

**The Radiance of Small Things in Ron Rash's Writing.** Frédérique Spill. Columbia: The University of South Carolina Press, 2019. ISBN 978-1-64336-019-5. 296 p. \$49.99 (Hbk)



As a librarian that collects writings of a particular few authors, I am one of those who has collected all of the books I can acquire that are written by Ron Rash. My first experience with Ron Rash was when he accepted an invitation to serve as guest speaker at an Everett Library Friends of the Library Spring Event in early 2000. Ron was teaching a writing course at Queens College and his book, *One Foot in Eden* circulated among his students and librarians. After that first presentation and going forward through the years, it was my pleasure to invite him to other events to speak about his writings. Yes, I have followed his writing and speaking work for twenty years.