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Georgia Library Association - Atlanta Emerging Librarians

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Georgia Library Association
Atlanta Emerging Librarians

2016 has been another busy year for the Atlanta Emerging Librarians (AEL) group, a sub-group of the Georgia Library Association New Members Round Table. This year’s planning committee, made up of Ashley Day, Lydia Hofstetter, and Rosemary Bilello Humphrey, sought to bring together library students, recent graduates, and those new to the profession for both professional development and informal social mingles.

In February, AEL began the year with an informal mingle at the Sweetwater Brewery in Midtown Atlanta. Together, AEL and the attendees discussed what events would be popular and useful in the coming year.

In May, AEL kicked off its professional development with “Marketing Yourself, Your Library, and Your Services” at the Toco Hill-Avis G. Williams Library in DeKalb County. This event featured presentations by Kelly Ansley, then instructor coordinator at the Marietta Campus of Kennesaw State University, Mack Freeman, marketing and program coordinator at West Georgia Regional Library System, and Monica Dombrowski, technology education manager with Gail Borden Public Library in Elgin, Illinois. They spoke about marketing your library and events in both the public and academic library worlds, as well as marketing yourself in the job market and the wider library community.

In June, AEL had a table at the Masters of Library Science Program Fair held by the Metro-Atlanta Library Association and Georgia Library Association New Members Round Table at Oglethorpe University. This was a great opportunity to meet those interested in beginning library school and encourage them to become involved with the group.

In August, AEL continued the tradition started by the 2015 planning committee and attended a game, or bout, of the Atlanta Rollergirls at the Yaarba Shrine Center in Midtown. This informal mingle allowed the group to enjoy each other’s company and continue to plan events for the rest of the year.

In September AEL visited the Pitt’s Theological Library at Emory University for AEL’s annual library tour. Richard (Bo) Manly Adams, Jr., was
kind enough to explain the work they do at the library and give an overall explanation of the Pitt’s Theological Library and its place within Emory University. Attendees also viewed the exhibit the library was hosting at the time, A Most Perilous Journey, Erasmus’ Greek New Testament at 500 Years.

In November, AEL returned to professional development with its second presentation, “Jump into the Job Market!,” held at the Toco Hill-Avis G. Williams Library. For the presentation, AEL had five speakers present on entering and advancing in the library job market. Wendy Cornelisen, assistant state librarian for library innovation and collaboration, gave a talk, “Marketing Yourself.” Ana Guimaraes, director of collection development at Kennesaw State University, spoke on the dos and don’ts of writing a cover letter. Shelley Rogers, senior cataloger at Ingram Library at University of West Georgia, presented and gave examples of the proper formatting and development of curriculum vitae. Mary Jinglewski, training services librarian at Equinox Software, Inc., gave her presentation “Using Your Library Degree Beyond the Library.”

AEL finished up the presentation with Mack Freeman discussing the Georgia Library Association and the benefits of becoming involved in the organization. After the presentation, AEL had a Q&A session and all the presenters worked with those in attendance to review resumes and CVs.

The last event the 2016 planning committee coordinated was the annual Mingle with the Admins at Manuel’s Tavern in Ponce-Highland. This traditional event gave MLIS students and recent graduates a chance to mix and mingle with administrators who are currently hiring and to benefit from job and career advice offered by those already working as professional librarians. Topics discussed included resume and interview tips, as well as how to get involved in professional organizations.

The 2016 planning committee would like to thank the speakers and attendees for participating in AEL programs throughout the year. AEL would also like to thank GLA and NMRT for their funding and support.