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## Georgia Library Association - Atlanta Emerging Librarians

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*People, Libraries  
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

## Georgia Library Association Atlanta Emerging Librarians

2019 began with a flurry of excitement, networking, and spirited collaboration for the Atlanta Emerging Librarians (AEL). As we reach the midpoint of the year, that initial enthusiasm has not abated, in spite of a hectic semester and, at times, overstuffed schedules of the dedicated planning committee members.

The AEL group kicked off the year with the annual “Mingle with the Admins” event at Manuel’s Tavern on Saturday, January 12th. The event provided the outgoing 2018 AEL planning committee an opportunity to share the group’s collective successes and outreach initiatives from the past year, while also serving as a key opportunity for the incoming AEL 2019 Planning Committee to mingle with seasoned deans, librarians, and academic professionals from across the metro Atlanta area.

On January 23rd, the baton was officially passed from the outgoing 2018 committee to the incoming 2019 group via a virtual officer’s transition meeting. The 2018 committee shared advice, provided feedback, and offered informed responses to questions about what they had learned over the past year’s many events and outreach initiatives. Having a fun, frank discussion with peers about potential event ideas galvanized the new committee’s collective resolve and got their creative juices

flowing. Over the next few months, the group met regularly online, curated social media content, and hosted several outreach events. With such a diverse group of committee members—most of whom are in library school or recent graduates, and all representing a cross-section of staff from metro area private, public, and academic libraries—there is no shortage of talent or ideas to contribute to the whole.



The first widely promoted event was a Crafternoon, an informal craft mingle, held on March 30th at the MINT gallery in Atlanta. MINT, a nonprofit, provided the committee members with a space and time to be creative with other emerging librarians. People could bring projects they were already working on or

learn how to crochet, knit, or embroider. The event provided an open and welcoming space to explore and learn about crafts and talk about different experiences while working in libraries.

The May event proved to be the most challenging, both in terms of planning and overall coordination. The informal sci-fi themed “May the 4th be with you” meetup ran, head on, into the busy Avondale May Ham Fest. Unbeknownst to AEL, the venue of choice, My Parents’ Basement, just so happened to be ground zero for one of the most popular culinary events in the Decatur/Avondale area. It was also the site of another library event on the same day. In spite of a late start and a few logistical issues, the committee members who

braved the crowds to meet up had a grand time talking libraries, Star Wars, comics, and, of course, food.

With classes winding down and a lighter summer workload, June proved a perfect time for the first semi-formal event.

On June 28th, the Atlanta Emerging Librarians (AEL) group met for a tour of the newly renovated Crosland Tower at Georgia Tech. Crosland Tower—which reopened this January after the three-year renovation—originally went up in 1969, when it was named the Graduate Addition. It was rechristened after longtime library director Dorothy Crosland in 1985.

With the tour, AEL committee members, GLA members, and colleagues from libraries across the metro area were able to see many of the Georgia Tech library’s pilot programs and new technology spaces.

Staff member and AEL committee member Justin Ellis led the tour. Data Visualization Librarian Ximin Mi and retroTECH Archivist Wendy Hagenmaier also hosted a presentation in the library’s new Data Visualization and Retro Technology lab.

The librarians provided an overview of the multimedia tools, software, and innovative instruction methods Georgia Tech uses to meet the evolving needs of a data and technology-driven engineering campus. The highlight of the event was when the group took the opportunity to explore the new spaces and play classic games in retroTECH.

There was also a strong networking theme throughout the event. The tour ended with a discussion about opportunities for getting involved with the Georgia Library Association and the AEL. Afterwards, the AEL committee members had a chance to chat, debrief, and plan for the next outing.

*Photo Credit: Shandra Jones*