Greetings! I am pleased to be able to share this annual report with you as an update on the work of the Georgia State University Library over the past year.

As the following pages illustrate, our talented librarians and staff have dedicated themselves to providing excellent library services for Georgia State. We have successfully consolidated the personnel and resources of the Atlanta campus library with the five libraries that were part of Georgia Perimeter College to form one new organization. We have reached out to the campus and the larger community through workshops, exhibits, and programs. We have promoted and expanded our expertise by offering a range of services around managing and using research data and by hiring a digital scholarship librarian. And yes, we have dealt with some security challenges, though we were able to respond quickly to those isolated incidents in a way that reassured our students that the library remains a great place to study. Additionally, we have made strategic, long-term investments in infrastructure for an even safer library going forward.

As we look to the year ahead, there is so much to look forward to. We are entering into a master planning process to address the space challenges we face. This will provide us a road map for renovations to create more space for students, more space for special collections, and more space for facilitating research. We will create new positions and rework existing positions to establish the Library as a national leader in support of student success and research excellence.

As we enter Year 2 of the University’s capital campaign, Burning Bright, the Library is on a trajectory to meet our fundraising target. But to become the leading, 21st century library Georgia State University students, faculty, and staff deserve, we need to exceed that target. That will only be possible with the generous support of parents, alumni, and friends like you. I would be delighted to meet to talk about how your gift can transform the lives of our students.

Sincerely,

Jeff Steely
Dean of Libraries
1. The Library was a proud supporter of the 2016 Decatur Book Festival, donating funds and volunteering at the Georgia State University booth throughout the Labor Day weekend. This was the first year the Library participated in the event.

2. Archivist Kevin Fleming organized the Johnny Mercer Tribute concert, hosted by the Rialto Center featuring the Georgia State University Jazz Band, Joe Gransden, Kathleen Bertrand, and special guest Marilyn Maye.

3. Organized and hosted by archivist Morna Gerrard, the annual Georgia Women’s Movement Project Spring Event raises awareness about the Library’s extensive Women and Gender Collections. This year’s event featured former Atlanta Journal-Constitution journalists Maria Saporta and Susan Wells.

4. In the Spring Semester, Georgia State University Professor Emeritus Dr. Leonard Ray Teel visited the Library to speak on his latest book, Reporting the Cuban Revolution: How Castro Manipulated American Journalists. The event sparked the idea for a new partnership between the Library and the Emeriti Association, in which we now co-host the biannual Emeriti Author Series with the Association.

5. In May, the Library co-hosted the fourth annual Atlanta Studies Symposium, during which scholars and activists were invited to learn from and act on research about Atlanta’s past, present, and future.

6. During the first Library Employee Development Day since consolidation, faculty and staff from the Atlanta Campus and Perimeter College libraries came together before the start of the Fall Semester to learn from one another, share best practices, and plan for a shared future.
Students and faculty are increasingly turning to the Library for information about how to collect and interpret raw data and share their scholarship online. Over the past year, we’ve embraced this trend by fostering a collaborative research and information sharing culture rooted in technology.

Our brand-new Research Data Services Team, for example, supports qualitative and quantitative research across multiple disciplines. Through a combination of workshops, drop-in hours, and individual advising, team members provide guidance on how to identify and acquire unique data, use data analysis software, manage data, and share datasets for reuse by other researchers.

We’ve also positioned ourselves as the go-to campus resource for information about digital copyright and publishing. In addition to hosting ScholarWorks, the University’s online repository, the Library now offers workshops and drop-in advising regarding open access publishing, author rights, copyright law, and more.

The ongoing data visualization project ATLMaps is a testament to the success of this approach. A collaborative effort between Georgia State and Emory University faculty (including librarian Joe Hurley), ATLMaps combines archival maps, geospatial data visualization, and user-contributed multimedia location pinpoints to promote investigation into any number of issues about Atlanta. It incorporates many digitized resources from both Emory and Georgia State University Libraries, including materials from the Georgia State University Library’s Planning Atlanta, MARTA, and Works Progress Administration of Georgia Atlanta Maps collections. It was one of 14 projects to win the 2016 Knight News Challenge on Libraries, a $35,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.
Total number of items checked out from all library campuses. Items available for checkout include books, laptops, headphones, audio-visual equipment, and more.

Total number of questions answered by library faculty and staff both online and in-person.

Total in-person visits to all six campus libraries.

Total number of students who attended the 654 library instruction sessions offered in-person and online throughout the year.

Total full-text downloads from library databases.

Total full-text downloads from ScholarWorks, the institutional repository.

Total visits to the library website.

Total items loaned to other libraries through interlibrary loan and GIL Express.

Total website visits conducted via a mobile device.
New Leadership

This year the Library selected Christina Zamon as Department Head of Special Collections and Archives. Prior to joining Georgia State University, Christina was the Head of Archives and Special Collections for Emerson College in Boston. She has worked at several institutions including the Frick Art Reference Library in New York City, the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., University of Maryland Brittle Materials Unit in the Preservation Department, and the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Christina obtained her Bachelor of Arts in History from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania and her Master of Library Science and Master of Arts in History from the University of Maryland.

Acquisitions

Acquisitions to the Library’s Southern Labor Archives include official records from the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Grady School of Nursing and Grady Hospital materials, and records from the Georgia Association of Educators. Acquisitions to the Georgia State University Archives include digital photographs of the campus, faculty, students, and events circa 2000-2010, College of Education public relations records, and photos of the university’s Spur Club from the 1930s.

Ongoing Projects

The 1995 documentary “The Uprising of ‘34” tells the story of the General Textile Strike of 1934. In June 2015, the University Library received a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to digitize and transcribe more than 300 hours of recorded interviews not used in the 88-minute documentary. While still in progress, the project will make a collection of first-person accounts of the strike and its aftermath widely available for the first time, including interviews from workers who participated in the strikes, their families, mill owners, and labor organizers.
As a result of the January 2016 consolidation of Georgia State University and Georgia Perimeter College, the University Library now has physical locations at six campuses: Downtown Atlanta, Alpharetta, Clarkston, Decatur, Dunwoody, and Newton. Together these libraries serve the more than 50,000 graduate and undergraduate students who currently attend Georgia State University.

Consolidating the Georgia State University/Perimeter College libraries’ collections, services, human resources, and operations was a collaborative effort which impacted and involved virtually every library unit, faculty, and staff member—from unifying online databases and digital resources, to merging countless web pages into a single website which serves all campuses.

Overseeing each of the Perimeter campus libraries is Tamika Barnes, Department Head for Perimeter College Library Services. Before being selected for the position in March 2016, Tamika was the Director of the Learning Resources Center, Dunwoody Campus at Perimeter College Library Services. She earned her Master of Library Science from North Carolina Central University.
In Memoriam
Frances Abercrombie (1914 - 2015)
Frances Abercrombie, wife of respected labor leader E. L. "Abbie" Abercrombie (1907-1989), an executive of Local 218 of the Laundry, Dry Cleaning, and Dye House Workers International Union in Atlanta and an early supporter of the work of the Southern Labor Archives, which holds his papers. It was Mrs. Abercrombie’s wish, through a generous donation to Georgia State University, to honor his memory through scholarship funding for Georgia State University students and continued support for the Southern Labor Archives.

Carole Ashkinaze Kay (1945 - 2016)
A reporter, columnist, and editorial board member, Carole Ashkinaze Kay fearlessly wrote about many controversial issues throughout her long career. She also worked on the Atlanta Project with Jimmy Carter, was Media Chief for UNICEF, and became a consultant and writer for the American Civil Liberties Union as well as other nonprofits.

The Carole Ashkinaze Papers are an integral part of the Donna Novak Coles Georgia Women’s Movement Archives. Donated in 2001, the papers include all of the columns that Ashkinaze wrote for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and the Chicago Sun-Times.

Merl Reed (1925 - 2016)
Dr. Merl Elwyn Reed was a key founder of the Southern Labor Archives at Georgia State University and served on the faculty of the University from 1965 until his 1994 retirement. During his career, Dr. Reed wrote or edited several books about labor and civil rights in the South. After his retirement, he devoted his attention to a history of Georgia State University entitled Educating the Urban New South: Atlanta and the Rise of Georgia State University, 1915-1969.

A Special Thanks: Carolyn Robison
Dr. Carolyn Robison served the Georgia State University Library as a librarian for 51 years. Starting as the circulation librarian, she worked her way up to Associate University Librarian. During her employment in the Library, Carolyn inspired her colleagues. At her retirement in 1998, her contributions were recognized by friends and colleagues, who established the Carolyn L. Robison Library Award Fund. Carolyn has continued to inspire through her engagement with the Library. Carolyn has served as a founding member and chair of the Library’s board; now she is a member of the Library’s Burning Bright campaign major gifts committee.

Carolyn has been an annual giver to the Library for 32 consecutive years! The Carolyn L. Robison Library Award Fund has provided assistance to numerous Library staff employees as they have worked on their graduate degrees in library science. This past year, Dr. Robison partnered with Library and Foundation staff to rewrite the gift agreement for the fund. The changes will facilitate even more staff development opportunities. As a direct result, this January, twelve Library staff members will be able to attend the American Library Association Midwinter Meeting in Atlanta.

We are grateful for Carolyn’s many contributions to the Georgia State University Library!

THE CAMPAIGN FOR GEORGIA STATE

Georgia State University launched the $300 million Burning Bright campaign in October 2016. The Library’s priorities for the campaign are to:

1) Meet the Space Needs of a Growing Student Body. Contributions to the Library Future Fund will enable us to plan and deliver more student-oriented space and a better environment for learning.

2) Create a Vibrant Platform for Discovery. Gifts to the Library General Endowment will provide a reliable, perpetual source of funds to ensure Georgia State scholars can access the knowledge that will lead to success in the classroom, in the studio, in the research lab — wherever teaching, learning, and research take place.

3) Preserve the History of Atlanta and our Region. A significant gift to endow an archivist’s position will support the important work of our Special Collections & Archives in perpetuity as we expand, preserve, and promote the use of these unique collections.

4) Become a Leading Model for Progressive Research Libraries. Contributions to the GSU Fund for the University Library provide the resources for innovation, the materials, and an opportunity to respond to opportunities as they arise.

For more information about planned gifts or endowments, please visit library.gsu.edu/giving.