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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

2017 Year in Review

The Atlanta Emerging Librarians (AEL), a subgroup of Georgia Library Association's (GLA) New Members Round Table (NMRT), went above and beyond this year. The 2017 Atlanta Emerging Librarians Planning Committee, Amanda Densmore; Holly Hampton; and Jherusha Lambert, spent the year focusing on creating more opportunities for new and prospective librarians to connect in innovative and exciting ways that would serve to educate attendees about all types of libraries. They committed to hosting seven events this year and sponsoring one presentation at the Georgia Libraries Conference. The 2017 AEL Planning Committee was able to accomplish their goal by successfully reaching out to those that are interested in entering the library profession, currently working toward a Master of Library and Information Science degree, just beginning their career as a librarian, and even those that have already established themselves in the field.

The group planned an exciting informal

meetup to kick off the year by hosting an event they called "Cuatro de Mayo" at Escorpion. As is suggested by the title, this event took place on May 4, 2017, and there was a great turnout, giving the attendees an opportunity to network and enjoy the casual atmosphere and delicious food.

On July 15, 2017, the group hosted an event that has been deemed a tradition for AEL since 2015: attending an Atlanta Rollergirls bout. Attendees bonded as they learned about roller derby and watched the Denim Demons and the Toxic Shocks battle for a spot in the championships. Following the game, the group moved the party to Manuel's Tavern, where they had an opportunity to learn more about each other over an appetizing meal.

Two weeks later, the 2017 Atlanta Emerging Librarians set up a table at the Masters of Library Science Programs Fair held by the Metro Atlanta Library Association and Georgia Library Association's New Members Round Table at Oglethorpe University. The group utilized this opportunity to promote their upcoming events, encourage GLA membership, and give advice to anyone interested in entering a library science



2017 Atlanta Emerging Librarians Planning Committee:
Jherusha Lambert, Holly Hampton, and Amanda Densmore



program or the library field. The 2017 AEL Planning Committee was pleased to see many of the attendees from the fair at their events throughout the remainder of the year.

On August 25, 2017, the group hosted another one of AEL's traditional events: a library tour.

Joel Walker, an education specialist, provided the group with an exceptional, educational tour of the National Archives at Atlanta. Mr. Walker began by presenting a detailed presentation about what the National Archives has to offer and the role of the National Archives at Atlanta. Attendees learned about some of the documents stored at the Archives, the services available to visitors, the events that are held at the Archives, and much more.

At the Georgia Libraries Conference, on October 5, 2017, AEL made an appearance as they sponsored the "Vendorbrarians: Librarians Working in Non-Traditional Careers or, What It Means to Cross Over to the Dark Side" presentation. Stephen Sherman, president of the Special Libraries Association's Georgia Chapter, and AEL's Amanda Densmore, introduced a panel of professionals holding MLS degrees and who work for library vendors: Shae Tetterton, Teddy Gray, and Kristin Milks. The panel shared with attendees how they use their unique library skills to work for a library vendor and what it means to work in an organization

that primarily offers products and services to libraries when you have an MLS or MLIS degree.

Later that month, on October 30, 2017, the 2017 AEL Planning Committee hosted their first formal mingle, titled "You've Got Options: Working as a Special Librarian." This event was

hosted at the Metropolitan Library, which was named one of the 10 Most Beautiful Libraries in Georgia by the Georgia Public Library Service in April 2017. Attendees had the opportunity to tour this award-winning library before the presentations began. Stephanie Irvin, outreach librarian for the Georgia Libraries

for Accessible Statewide Services, and Christine Willis, director of knowledge management & learning resources at the Shepherd Center, offered informative presentations on what they do, where they work, and how special librarianship is a rewarding and attainable field.

On December 15, 2017, AEL joined in on the holiday fun by hosting a holiday party featuring the Pharaoh escape room at Big Escape Rooms in Atlanta. The group successfully escaped the room with time and clues left to spare. They proceeded

to enjoy the remainder of the party as they ate pizza, wings, cookies, popcorn, and more while sharing stories of past escape room experiences.





Finally, on January 13, 2018, the 2017 AEL Planning Committee hosted the annual Mingle with the Admins at Manuel's Tavern. Prospective, new, experienced, and former librarians all came together to mingle with each other and the library administrators that attended this event. Library administrators came prepared with information about available library positions and advice regarding interviewing for a job in the library field, working in a library, and how and why attendees should get involved in professional organizations.

As the 2017 Atlanta Emerging Librarians Planning Committee passes their duties and responsibilities to the 2018 AEL Planning Committee, they would like to thank the speakers, presenters, administrators, and attendees for making their term on the AEL Planning Committee a success. They hope they have helped aspiring, new, and experienced librarians learn more about librarianship during their time with AEL. They would also like to thank GLA and NMRT for continuing to support the efforts of the Atlanta Emerging Librarians.