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Newsletter

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Dean's Message



Dear Library Friends,

I hope you and your families remain safe and in good health. This spring's commencement was bittersweet as we virtually celebrated our graduating class. The FSU Libraries are proud we were able to partner with teaching faculty in supporting our students through this challenging time.

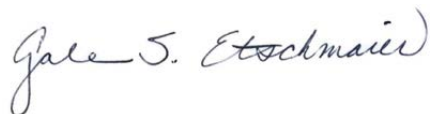
Shortly after commencement, the world was shocked and horrified by the brutal murder of George Floyd. His death made the centuries of racism and violence impossible to ignore. The starkness of the inequity in our society and the blatant racism underlying our daily lives were vividly documented by the images of this cruel murder. George Floyd's death is one in a series of almost daily deaths of Black men and women in our society, and too many of those deaths are at the hands of those whose responsibility it is to protect our communities.

I believe that FSU can make a difference by fostering dialog about race issues that can build understanding, empathy, and a strong commitment to FSU's values of Equity, Justice, and Opportunity. The Libraries are working with FSU leaders to create a one book program in which our community selects, reads, and discusses a book about issues of race, equity, and justice for this next academic year. The selected book will be made available to students for fall 2020 and, ideally, will be integrated into the curriculum in selected disciplines as well as be an integral part of the freshman orientation programming. While this is one small step, the Libraries and FSU are committed to helping create a more just world.

The Libraries have also developed a reading list on anti-racism. You can access the list [here](#).

As we look ahead to the summer and fall, the FSU Libraries are committed to the University's goals of justice and equality. Please stay safe.

Best,



Donor Spotlight



The beating heart of any vibrant college campus is its library. And these days a library is so much more than just a repository for books and journals. Whether it's helping faculty with a presentation, ordering hard-to-find documents through Interlibrary Loan, alerting us to new databases and electronic resources, and always the archivists in special collections, libraries and librarians make me a better scholar and a better teacher. And every semester at least a few former students thank me for introducing them to the wonders of microfilm!

My family created the Emmett Till Lecture and Archives Fund as a way to say thank you, and also to bring attention and resources to the most important Emmett Till research site in the country. Future scholarship on the case will be informed by our collections, which have grown each year. Whether it's Keith Beauchamp's one-of-a-kind video oral histories, Devery Anderson's transcribed interviews and FBI files, Dave Tell's archival work on contemporary memory projects, Steve Whitaker's 1963 MA thesis, or 65 years worth of newspaper articles from small weekly black newspapers and major urban dailies, FSU Libraries have prioritized the digitization of research that has taken us more than 20 years to collect. Further, as the Till case has become the foundation stone of modern civil rights movement historiography, [FSU's Emmett Till Archives](#) will function as that beating heart for countless students, scholars, filmmakers, and activists.

-Davis Houck, Ph.D.

Davis Houck is the Fannie Lou Hamer Professor of Rhetorical Studies in the School of Communication at FSU; author of *Emmett Till and the Mississippi Press*, and member of the FSU Libraries' Civil Rights Institute steering committee

Special Collections & Archives

History lives within the records of our lives and the documentation of our activities. It is through the records of people's lives -- letters, diaries, photographs, contracts, receipts,

and the like -- that students and researchers are able to discover and share aspects of our history that had been overlooked and sometimes willfully hidden. FSU Libraries Special Collections & Archives preserves and shares the Emmett Till Archives, as well as materials related to this history of **enslavement**, **Emancipation**, **Jim Crow**, and the long **Civil Rights movement** in our region. We invite students, researchers, and community members to do research in our collections, to ask us questions, and to help us improve accessibility. While campus is closed due to the Coronavirus emergency, Special Collections & Archives staff are still **available to help** answer questions and provide access to collections from afar.



FSU Libraries' Virtual Backgrounds

FSU Libraries have created custom Zoom backgrounds featuring scenes from Strozier Library, Dirac Science Library, and a selection of images from our University & Heritage Archives collection.

To view & download virtual backgrounds, [visit the webpage.](#)



Highlights of our virtual backgrounds!

Upcoming Events

Stay tuned for more information on the first ever Noles Read Day – coming Sunday, August 16!

Now is the perfect time to stay at home and celebrate FSU Libraries with a good book! 📖

To RSVP to Noles Read Day, simply [make a gift to the Libraries](#) from now until **August 16**. On the day of the event, share a photo of you reading at home, at the beach, or wherever you love to enjoy a good book! Be sure to use the hashtag, #NolesReadDay.

More information will be shared via email and our social media accounts. We hope you join us for a day of reading for a good cause!

Giving Opportunities



Library Development Fund



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Textbook Fund



Special Collections

Florida State University Civil Rights Institute

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