Zach's News

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Georgia Southern University, Zach S. Henderson Library

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Position change: Sonya Shepherd to be new Director of Library Services at Gordon State College

June 3, 2014

After 19 years of service at Georgia Southern University, Dr. Sonya S. Shepherd has accepted a new appointment as the Director of Library Services at Gordon State College located in Barnesville, GA. Her appointment will begin August 1, 2014. She will be responsible for the oversight of all library services, library collections, the budget, and an upcoming renovation and possible expansion. Dr. Shepherd will supervise 4 librarians, 2 staff members, and several student assistants. “While we are sorry to see Dr. Shepherd go and we will miss her greatly, this is a wonderful opportunity for her professionally and I know she will enjoy living closer to her family in Atlanta,” said Dr. Bede Mitchell, Dean and University Librarian.

Hired in 1995 as the Assistant Government Documents Librarian at the Zach S. Henderson Library, Sonya has served the library and Georgia Southern in many capacities. Dr. Shepherd earned tenure in 2001 and was promoted to Full Professor in 2010. Since 2011, Sonya has worked as the Library Assessment Officer. She has collaborated with library units to create and manage library services and instruction assessments. Additionally, Dr. Shepherd has been the library liaison to the College of Education, offered research assistance, and contributed to the Library’s instruction and collection development activities. She has also actively participated on library and campus committees (e.g., Library Tenure and Promotion Committee, Library Distance Learning Work Team, student organization advisor, mentor and instructor for McNair Scholars Postbaccalaureate Research Institute, Information Technology Advisory Committee, Faculty Senate, First Year Experience, SACS Reaffirmation Team, and Complete College Georgia Planning Committee). Previously, Dr. Shepherd served as the library’s Learning Commons Director for 3 years while simultaneously acting as the Associate Department Head for 8 years of the Information Services Department.

She has also worked on the state level in the library profession. Most recently, Sonya helped organize the first Southeastern Library Assessment Conference held in 2013; participates on the Regents Academic Committee on Libraries (RACL) Assessment Taskforce (2013-present); and for two years (2012-2014) served as the Chair of the Assessment Interest Group within the Georgia Library Association. She has written numerous scholarly articles and book chapters; conducted numerous presentations; and is the lead editor on a forthcoming electronic textbook to be published by Kendall-Hunt.

Dr. Shepherd holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science with Mathematics minor from LaGrange College (1993); a Masters of Science degree in Library Service from Clark-Atlanta University (1995), and a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Administration from Georgia Southern University (2003).

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