An Oct. 8 panel discussion of the dynamics, trends, developments and resources surrounding the 2008 Presidential election is on tap and packed with Emory University political science notables.

The 4 to 6 p.m. event, planned for the Jones Room of the Robert W. Woodruff Library building and co-sponsored by the Emory College Council, includes

- **Merle Black**, the Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Politics and Government and the nation’s foremost authority on politics in the Southeastern United States.
- **Alan Abramowitz**, the Alben W. Barkley Professor of Political Science and a renowned expert on national politics and elections.
- **Andra Gillespie**, an assistant professor of political science whose areas of research include political participation and racial and ethnic politics in the United States.
- **Beth Reingold**, an associate professor of political science, whose research focuses upon women and politics and issues of political identity at both the state and national levels.

Both Black and Abramowitz are quoted almost daily by local, national and international media outlets for their views on U.S. political trends and dynamics, noted organizer Chris Palazzolo, a social sciences librarian and adjunct political science instructor at Emory. Gillespie and Reingold bring their expertise on how race and gender affect politics and voters to the discussion during a groundbreaking election that includes the first African American and female candidates for the nation’s top two elected offices.

“The opportunity to hear these scholars share their insights and interact with each other during such a profoundly historic election is an exciting opportunity,” Palazzolo said. “The Emory Libraries are thrilled to offer this type of distinctive educational program to the university family, as well as the larger Atlanta community.”

-**more**-
The 4 p.m. start time also allows those who observe Yom Kippur -- which begins at sunset that day (7:12 p.m.) -- to participate.

Two related exhibitions on U.S. elections are ongoing in the Robert W. Woodruff Library through Nov. 15:

- **“From GW to GW (and Beyond): Presidents, Politics and Primaries”**: Highlights Emory Libraries materials that address numerous presidential election trends and developments over time. Topics include the nomination process, the role of primaries and caucuses, televised debates, electoral advertising and marketing, exception elections, landmark historic contests and the Electoral College. On exhibition during regular library hours through Nov. 15 in the New Books Rotunda, Level Three, Robert W. Woodruff Library building.

- **“From GW to GW: Presidents, Politics and Power”**: Displays a wide variety of primary source materials on the presidency, all collected from the Emory Libraries’ rich federal depository program. Examples include a copy of George Washington’s 1789 election from the Annals of Congress, as well as a copy of the Supreme Court decision that put our current president, George W. Bush, in office following the tempestuous 2000 election in which his main rival was Al Gore. Copies of Ronald Reagan’s speech following the 1986 Space Shuttle Challenger disaster and Richard Nixon’s terse resignation letter from August 1974 also are displayed. On exhibition during regular library hours through Nov. 15 on Level 1 of the Robert W. Woodruff Library building.

###

Emory University Libraries (http://web.library.emory.edu/) in Atlanta and Oxford, Ga., are an intellectual commons for Emory University, Atlanta and the world. The nine libraries' holdings include more than 3.1 million print and electronic volumes, 40,000-plus electronic journals, and internationally renowned special collections.

Emory University (http://www.emory.edu) is known for its demanding academics, outstanding undergraduate experience, highly ranked professional schools and state-of-the-art research facilities. Perennially ranked as one of the country's top 20 national universities by U.S. News & World Report, Emory encompasses nine academic divisions as well as the Carlos Museum, The Carter Center, the Yerkes National Primate Research Center and Emory Healthcare, Georgia’s largest and most comprehensive health care system.