For Immediate Release

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH BEGUN FOR MARBL DIRECTOR

Firm Hired, Search Committee Named

The international search for a new director of the Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library (MARBL) has commenced, with the search committee’s first meeting held yesterday.

Jonathan Fortescue, Managing Director of J. Robert Scott Executive Search, is assisting with recruiting and other dimensions of the search. A committee of distinguished representatives from the Emory community has been named to develop and submit a small list of qualified candidates for consideration, said Vice Provost and Director of Libraries Rick Luce.

“Linda Matthews, immediate past vice provost and director of the Emory Libraries, has agreed to chair the committee,” Luce said. “I know she will bring both her deep knowledge of archives and her deep support for enabling MARBL to move to the next level.”

Matthews is widely known and respected nationally for initiating MARBL’s quest to collect the archives of living writers. She guided MARBL through its rise to international prominence, first as director of MARBL and then later leading the Emory Libraries.

Additional committee members include:

- **Ron Schuchard**, Goodrich C. White Professor of English – Schuchard, a scholar of 20th-century British, Irish and Anglophone literature with particular expertise on T.S. Eliot and Yeats, was an early campus advocate of growing MARBL’s collections. He also is general editor of the “Collected Prose of T.S. Eliot.” His passion is sharing with undergraduate students the rare literary materials available to them in MARBL, and teaches many of his classes in the library.

- **Natasha Trethewey**, Phillis Wheatley Distinguished Chair in Poetry – a Pulitzer-Prize-winning poet for her most recent collection, Native Guard, Trethewey has been published in numerous journals and reviews. Her two additional collections – Domestic Work and Bellocq’s Ophelia – have won multiple awards.

- **Rudolph Byrd**, Goodrich C. White Professor of American Studies and founder of the James Weldon Johnson Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies – a longtime supporter of MARBL, Byrd’s research interests range from American and African American literature.
to the modern civil rights movement. The author and editor of eight books – as well as a founding member of the Alice Walker Literary Society – Byrd was instrumental in encouraging Alice Walker to consider placing her papers at Emory, which she did in late 2007. He is curating a public exhibition from her papers that is scheduled to debut in Spring 2009.

- **James Roark**, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of American History and a previous chairperson of the history department. A historian specializing in southern and 19th-century American history, Roark has authored five books and is a widely respected campus leader. Among his current projects is a documentary history of the Confederacy that interweaves the experience of soldiers and battlefields with those of civilians and the home front.

- **Allen Tullos**, associate professor of American studies – Tullos is senior editor of the groundbreaking Southern Spaces (www.southernspaces.com), a publically accessible, web-based interdisciplinary journal about the American South. He also has produced, co-produced or managed sound on three documentaries, published one book and edited another. Research interests include American popular music, southern film and visual culture, the politics of space, and contemporary southern politics.

The Emory Libraries are represented on the committee by Naomi Nelson, MARBL’s interim director, and Dianne Smith, libraries director of human resources.

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The 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 one of the nation's leading private research universities and a member of the Association of American Universities. Known for its demanding academics, outstanding undergraduate college of arts and sciences, highly ranked professional schools and state-of-the-art research facilities, Emory is ranked as one of the country's top 20 national universities by U.S. News & World Report. In addition to its nine schools, the university encompasses the Carter Center, Yerkes National Primate Research Center and Emory Healthcare, the state's largest and most comprehensive health care system.