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For Immediate Release

NAOMI NELSON NAMED INTERIM DIRECTOR OF MANUSCRIPT, ARCHIVES AND RARE BOOK LIBRARY (MARBL)

Steve Enniss Named Eric Weinmann Librarian of the Folger Shakespeare Library

Naomi Nelson, Ph.D., has been named the interim director of the Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library (MARBL).

Nelson’s appointment, effective today, Oct. 1, was announced upon the news that MARBL’s current director, Steve Enniss, Ph.D., has accepted an appointment at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C.

Nelson has worked for the Emory Libraries since 1991. She has served as assistant director of MARBL since 2004. Previously, she was coordinator of research services. She also worked as MARBL’s curator of Southern history and director of digital archives. As interim, Nelson will inaugurate a program to provide digital access to some of MARBL’s most treasured materials, and will continue planning for a new MARBL building that will bring rare books and manuscripts together with the latest digital technologies. Nelson earned a Ph.D. in history from Emory in 2001 and a master’s degree in library science from the University of Pittsburgh in 1991.

"We are thrilled to have someone on our team with Naomi Nelson's experience who knows our collections so well,” said Rick Luce, vice provost and director of Emory University Libraries. “I'm pleased that Naomi has agreed to step into this role."

Enniss, an Emory alumnus (master’s degree in librarianship, 1983) who holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of Georgia, begins work as the Eric Weinmann Librarian of the Folger in January 2009. In addition to overseeing library operations and acquisitions, Enniss will lead initiatives to expand access to rare materials in the Folger’s collections. During 15 years at MARBL, Enniss led the library in acquiring important papers of major American, British and Irish writers – among them Ted Hughes, Salman Rushdie, Alice Walker, Seamus Heaney and Flannery O’Connor – and helped turn MARBL into one of the fastest growing and most important literary research centers in the United States.

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“Steve Enniss’ dedication and hard work toward making MARBL an international destination library is exemplary,” Luce said. “It's a wonderful indication of the stature MARBL has achieved that we were called upon by this foremost rare books library to fill such an important position. We are committed to continuing and enhancing the stellar trajectory Steve and his predecessors have set for MARBL, and we are proud to see him take on this new endeavor at the Folger.”

Said Folger Library Director Gail Kern Paster: “Steve has had a remarkable career building Emory’s Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library into a formidable collection and a thriving intellectual center. I know he will be just as successful at the Folger, overseeing the world’s largest Shakespeare collection and reaching out…to booklovers in Washington and around the world.”

Enniss’ last day at MARBL is Oct. 31. Plans have begun for an international search for a permanent director of MARBL.

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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.