Pitts Library Scholar Program

Purpose:
The Pitts Library Scholar program offers exceptional doctoral and masters students the opportunity to participate in the discussions that guide the future of the library. The Pitts Scholar program also represents a unique opportunity for professional development in the areas of research, pedagogy, and community engagement. Through their work, Pitts Scholars will serve as a vital point of connection, collaboration, and accountability between Pitts and the larger Emory community.

Scholar Role and Responsibilities:
The Pitts Library Scholar program will be open to both doctoral (Graduate Division of Religion) and masters (Candler School of Theology) students. Each year, up to fifteen students will be designated as scholars, with equal representation from the masters and doctoral programs. Scholar tenure is one year, with the potential for renewal.

As a group, the scholars will provide feedback on current library facilities, services and collections in two complementary ways: meeting in person and being available via email for virtual discussion of library concerns. Scholars will attend collegial meetings once a month (on the first Friday), where we will discuss library initiatives and concerns as well as scholar projects (see below). At least one of these meetings will have the Library Survey as its focus, and, at the final meeting of the year, scholars will present their library project.

This project will allow Pitts Scholars to gain valuable academic and community leadership experience. Ideally, the project will reflect the interest of each individual scholar, as they partner with librarians to enhance Pitts offerings in service of the broader Emory community. Projects may be chosen from one of three categories: research, pedagogy, and community outreach. All areas have a strong focus on digital publication and scholars will receive recognition for their work in a special section of the Pitts website, as well as on any materials related to their project (finding aids, research guides, workshop materials, etc.). Scholars can expect to spend ten hours a month on their project, using the monthly meetings as a space for discussion and collaboration. Scholars will identify their chosen project in the first full month of the academic year (September), and scholars may choose to work on their projects in teams.
Potential Scholar Projects (not an exhaustive list, by any means!)

1. **Research**: this category could include any project involving special collections items; we are very open to the range and scope of potential scholar projects. Some potential project suggestions:
   a. Language-related projects
      i. First edition of Erasmus’ Greek NT (Kessler 1516 Bibl B); marginal notations; needs to be examined to determine how many hands are represented in the marginalia and the significance of the notes.
      ii. Second edition of the Rabbinic Bible (1524-1525) with Hebrew marginalia.
   b. International Projects
      i. Sub-Saharan African postcards (MSS 353); some are used but most are not; it would be an interesting project to do a sampling of the cards to determine locations/countries covered, dates, subject matter of photos, etc. This would be ideal for a scholar with interests in art history or mission.
      ii. Weekly Tract Society (London) collection at Pitts, 429 tracts; typically 4 unnumbered pages; 18 cm tall. (1860 TRACT).
   c. Methodist-specific Projects
      i. Candler BD theses, essentially written between WW I and WW II; splendid group of material for engaging Methodist ministerial education in the South during this period.
      ii. Fred Pratt Green’s notebooks on his hymn compositions. MSS 166
      iii. Analysis of congregational histories for the North Georgia Conference of the UMC; MSS 028.

2. **Pedagogy**
   a. **Workshop**: Scholar would create and facilitate a workshop for the library—either within the current Weekly Workshop schedule, or as a stand alone event. Workshops could tie in to current Candler classes, to the practice of ministry, or to individual scholar interests.
   b. **Research Guide**:
      i. Review an out of date guide and update it
      ii. Create a completely new guide or topical tabs for insertion into existing guides
   c. **Training materials**: Create digital FAQ’s or videos for TA’s/Research Assistants in the use of library course reserves, Blackboard, scanners, and use of technology in the classroom.
   d. **Integrated Classroom**: Craft a class session focusing on library materials—special collections, exhibits, or other library resources.

3. **Community Outreach**
   a. **Exhibits Projects**
      i. Exhibit Marketing
      ii. Participate in docent-related activities/training
      iii. Assistant curation of a relevant exhibit
b. **Church Engagement**: this project could take many forms, linking with exhibits or involving Pitts materials in a church project (e.g. a recent Sunday school course that engaged Swanson’s art in the Candler and Pitts spaces).

c. **Digital Image Archive**: scholar could assist with the addition of metadata to DIA images or with the distribution/marketing of the DIA as a tool for researchers and pastors.