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Law library chief retires



After almost 16 years of service to Georgia Law, Alexander Campbell King Law Library Director and Professor E. Ann Puckett

will retire June 30.

A nationally recognized leader in law library management, Puckett joined the Georgia Law faculty in 1994. In addition to overseeing the law library, computing services and educational technology for the law school, she has also taught Law and Disability.

“This job fulfilled all my hopes,” Puckett said. “All the challenges I’ve met at UGA have been very satisfying. It is a different place now, and I’m proud to have been a part of the transformation.”

One of the most visible changes during Puckett’s tenure was the remodel of the Carl E. Sanders Reading Room.

“It was such a huge undertaking. We had to entirely close all services in that part of the library and move them to the annex,” she explained. “It was a noisy, smelly, disruptive process, but unveiling the spectacularly beautiful result to the world at the rededication was profoundly satisfying.”

Puckett also oversaw the implementation of numerous technological innovations as well as other modifications to improve the overall environment of the library.

“This staff has completed unbelievably complicated and labor intensive projects

in the past 15 years, and it shows,” she said.

A dedicated professor, Puckett added that one of her goals was to instill in her students the importance of being advocates of change.

“I hope my students gained a greater understanding of the importance of integrating people with disabilities into our communities and workplaces,” she said. “I’m so gratified that several of them have gone on to careers in public interest work and have written articles in the area of disability law.”

Puckett’s scholarship includes numerous presentations on library management, legal research methodology, trends in research technology, and law and disability. She has also maintained a national survey of law school computing services staffing. Additionally, she is the author of *Uniform Commercial Code: Confidential Drafts*.

Her impact on the field of library management is evident by her various professional leadership positions such as her service as an executive board member for the American Association of Law Libraries from 1993 to 1996.

Furthermore, in 2009 Puckett was named the recipient of the most prestigious award presented by the AALL, the Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award, which is given annually by the association in recognition of outstanding, extended and sustained service to law librarianship and to the organization.

One of the letters nominating Puckett for this honor stated, “Ann’s lengthy career has been a testament to the ideals of

law librarianship. She is an enthusiastic advocate for the profession [and her] extensive knowledge and love of [it] is unparalleled.”

Puckett earned her bachelor’s degree from Eastern Illinois University and her law degree and master’s degree in library science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She served as a law librarian at the University of Kansas, Southern Illinois University and Northwestern University before becoming director of the law library and professor at the South Texas College of Law, where she remained until joining UGA.

“Long before this position opened up, I had described to myself my perfect job,” she said. “Everything came together here.”

Puckett plans to remain in Athens with her husband, Dr. Thomas A. Wilson, and intends to increase her volunteer efforts in the local community.

1987 alumna Carol Watson to lead library

Current Georgia Law Associate Director for Information Technology Carol A. Watson (J.D. ’87) will become the new director of the Alexander Campbell King Law Library on July 1. A holder of four degrees and a Georgia Law graduate, Watson has worked at the law library for more than 20 years and has been active in the American Association of Law Libraries, where she was recently elected vice president/president elect of the Southeastern Chapter.