

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
University Libraries - Post MLS Diversity Residency Report
Jason Alston, 2008-2010

Introduction

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) University Libraries has established a two-year diversity residency in order to guide and develop a new librarian's professional growth while investing in the libraries' commitment to diversity within the field of librarianship. In the first year of the program, the resident works in three functional areas of Jackson Library gaining valuable experience in multiple service areas of academic librarianship. In the second year of the program, the resident chooses one service area upon which to focus. The resident also participates in diversity initiatives and outreach activities for both the library and the university.

Jason K. Alston 2008-2010

Jason Alston was selected as the first Diversity Resident Librarian at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) from July 2008-July 2010. During his time at UNCG Jason rotated between four departments within Jackson Library: Reference and Instructional Services, July 2008-November 2008; Technical Services, December 2008-April 2009; Special Collections and University Archives, April 2009-July 2009; and Cataloging with an emphasis on Special Collections, August 2009-June 2010. Highlights of experiences during his departmental rotations include:

- While working in the Special Collections Jason Alston catalogued a backlog of home economic government documents for Special Collections and University Archives. A part of that project was converting finding aids to Encoded Archival Description by cataloging home economics pamphlets in an ongoing Special Collections project.
- Jason developed a written usage aid for book vendor YBP's "GOBI Peer" featured and delivered a presentation about the "GOBI Peer" feature to library faculty at UNCG.
- Jason served on the library diversity committee and the search committee for Jackson Library's current first-year instruction coordinator.
- Jason assisted the Interior Architecture Library with the cataloging of projects from that program.
- Jason contributed to the Civil Rights Greensboro project by selecting documents for digitization and by writing a literature synthesis about the Greensboro sit-in movement.

Jason represented the University Libraries in multiple outreach activities and initiatives including partnerships with the Library and Information Sciences Department at UNCG. Jason was also highly involved with many campus departments and community organizations helping them with their information and user needs. Some highlights of those activities included:

- As UNCG's Diversity Resident Librarian Jason presented a poster session, "Implementing an IMLS Diversity Scholars Initiative: Making the Scholars Program Work for Students" at the North Carolina Library Association's 2009 conference in Greenville. At that same conference Jason also moderated a panel, entitled "The Library Diversity Committee: Serving Knowledge, Serving You".
- Jason also presented information about Open Journal Systems during a panel at session at the North Carolina Serials Conference; he also shared information about UNCG education professor C.P. Gause's Journal of Black Masculinity.
- Jason assisted with coordination and planning efforts with UNCG's Multicultural Resources Center (MRC). Jason worked with the MRC to improve library-related services including: making purchasing decisions for the centers resources, cataloging some of the spaces materials.
- Jason also planned and moderated an author book talk featuring the discussion of the publications of three of UNCG's faculty, Dr. C.P. Gause, Dr. Tara Green, and Mr. Michael Cauthen.
- As mentor and coordinator for the first, "ACE Scholars" cohort, a diversity scholarship collaborative initiative between Jackson Library and UNCG's Department of Library and Information Studies Jason offered input on how to tailor the new ACE Scholars initiative to best serve the incoming student needs.

Jason is a life member of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), serving on the logistics planning committee for the 2010 National Conference of African American Librarians. As a member of the BCALA, Jason delivered a resolution at the funeral of the BCALA's founder, Dr. E.J. Josey. Jason also published an article in the Carolina Peacemaker, "First Diversity Resident Urges Blacks into Library Science Field."

Jason obtained another professional position at the end of the diversity residency program, thus entering the regular workforce with experiences gained from the program that will support and sustain his career long term.

Gerald Holmes
Reference Librarian and Diversity Coordinator
December 6, 2010