On March 19, 2018, the University and much of Jacksonville was devastated by an EF-3 tornado. The Library was fortunate in that it was not as badly damaged as some campus buildings nearby (e.g., the historic Alumni House, which has since been demolished), but it did not escape unscathed. As morning dawned on March 20, it was clear that large sections of the building’s roof were missing. John Upchurch, Department Head for Public Services, was the first librarian back in the building. “I remember being shocked at the damage around campus,” Upchurch says, “and while the damage to the Library was no small thing, I had an overwhelming sense of relief and thankfulness that the Library was still standing more or less intact.” Preliminary assessments noted significant damage to the roof and the penthouse, which houses key equipment necessary for the Library’s climate control and elevator units. Broken windows in the lobby and 6th floors, as well as exterior damage to walkways, railings, and the majority of the Library’s exterior lighting also occurred. Due to the roof destruction, the 12th and 11th floors experienced repeated water intrusion, impacting ceilings and carpeting on both floors. As of the beginning of the summer term, the Library is still without a roof, but efforts are underway to mitigate the damage, and progress is ongoing. Servpro, contracted by the University, has dried in the upper floors temporarily until roof repair can begin. The 12th and 11th floors are still off-limits to the public, but three of the Library’s four elevators are now consistently in service. Library personnel donned work clothes and gloves to clean up lobby damage themselves directly after the storm.

As of the beginning of the summer term, the Library is still without a roof, but efforts are underway to mitigate the damage, and progress is ongoing. Servpro, contracted by the University, has dried in the upper floors temporarily until roof repair can begin. The 12th and 11th floors are still off-limits to the public, but three of the Library’s four elevators are now consistently in service. Library personnel donned work clothes and gloves to clean up lobby damage themselves directly after the storm.

Through it all, Library faculty and staff, several of whom experienced damage to their own homes, have proved compassionate, flexible, and resilient. Virtual library services were provided until the building was cleared as safe for re-entry.

Visit http://www.jsu.edu/library/news.html to view more COLE Train issues online.
**JSU HOLDS GAME DAY**

This semester, more than ever, the JSU Game Day planning team sought to offer students a way to destress during finals week and to reconnect with peers after the EF-3 tornado that struck campus on March 19th. JSU Game Day was collaboratively hosted by the JSU Tabletop & Collectible Card Game Club, Houston Cole Library, Technology Support Center, and Counseling Services on April 28th from 10:00am – 10:00pm of finals week. Since the usual location of the 11th floor was not available due to tornado damage, gaming took place on a number of floors.

The following events were offered:
- Video games (after 1:00pm): Basement Instruction Lab
- Card games / Board games / Snacks: Lobby
- Overflow Card games / Board games: 2nd floor
- Magic the Gathering (and other Collectible Card Games): 3rd floor
- Escape Room: 4th floor
- Large multi-player games (starting at 6:30pm): Classroom 10B
- 8:30 Werewolf

**ESCAPE ROOM**

The Escape Room was a new experience at JSU Game Day, offered through Ms. Lola Johnston of Counseling Services as an exercise in emotional intelligence for student groups. Students reserved a time slot and worked together through a number of puzzles in the 4th floor Group Study Room to save a fictitious library from financial collapse. Every time slot offered was booked, and Houston Cole Library looks forward to more Escape Room fun for JSU Game Day Fall 2018!

**COLLEGE FOR KIDS: SUMMER LECTURES FOR LITTLE GAMECOCKS**

Little gamers and their caregivers are encouraged to experience art, history, literature, music, science, and more through fun, free sessions with JSU professors this summer. Sessions will be located on the 5th floor of JSU’s Houston Cole Library in the Children’s Corner. Twenty total sessions will be offered, all from 1:00pm – 2:00pm. Attendance at a minimum of five sessions earns children a College for Kids diploma and invitation to a graduation party with Cocky on July 26th. For dates and more detailed information regarding sessions, please visit [http://libguides.jsu.edu/childrens/corner/events](http://libguides.jsu.edu/childrens/corner/events) or like HoustonColeLibraryChildrensCorner on Facebook.

**COMING SOON: NEW GROUP STUDY ROOM**

The new 3rd floor Group Study Room, projected to open Fall 2018, will provide students with more options for study space. After construction is completed on the new space, the Houston Cole Library will have two Group Study Rooms, located on the 3rd and 4th floors. The extra study space will enhance the Library’s ability to serve patrons seeking private, collaborative study spaces. The rooms are designed to offer students a quiet place to share ideas and work creatively.

Within the rooms, a whiteboard, a computer with large screen, and modular furniture are available to facilitate study needs. Rooms can accommodate up to eight users. The rooms can be reserved by calling the circulation desk at 256-782-5758 during normal business hours, or by visiting [http://www.jsu.edu/library/services/groupstudyroom.html](http://www.jsu.edu/library/services/groupstudyroom.html). A valid JSU ID must be presented at the time of use to check out a Group Study Room.

**LIBRARY FACULTY WIN AWARDS**

On Tuesday, May 1st, Jacksonville State University held its annual faculty awards program, and many Houston Cole Library faculty members were recognized:
- **Dr. George Mahaffy Excellence in Learning Technology Award**
  - Jodi Poe
- **Cleo and Carla Thomas Outstanding Community Education and Service Award**
  - Kimberly Westbrooks

**Faculty Research Awards**
- Paula Barnett-Ellis: Charlice Vann
- John-Bauer Graham: Kimberly Westbrooks
- Laurie Heathcock: Harrong Wang
- Bethany Latham: Yingle Tang

**Service Pins**
- Bethany Latham (15 years)
- Kimberly Stevens (20 years)

**ALABAMA LIBRARY CONVENTION**

The Alabama Library Association’s 2018 Convention saw significant representation from the Houston Cole Library, with an award winner, multiple poster sessions, a presentation from the Library, and an award winner from the Houston Cole Library, with an award winner from the Library. This honor is presented for making a significant contribution toward the development or improvement of a library or libraries within Alabama.

- **Jeffrey Boyles**
  - Honored with the Library’s Humanitarian Award for the work developing the Children’s Corner on the Library’s 5th floor.

- **Kimberly Westbrooks and Paula Barnett-Ellis**
  - The Graduate Collection Assessment: A Treasure Map to Valuable Resources for Curriculum.

- **John-Bauer Graham**
  - Presented for “Teaching Undergraduate History Students to Become Systematic and Strategic Researchers.”

- **Kimberly Westbrooks and Karlie Johnson**
  - Presented for “Surprising Information and Library Habits of Millennial Patrons.”

- **Charlice Pettway Vann**
  - Presented for “Diversity Matters.”

- **Carley Knight**
  - Presented “Alabama Meets Normalcy: My Four Weeks as a Volunteer at the University of Caen Library.”

- **“Library Takes A Hit” continued from page 1**

  Understanding that many at JSU and in the surrounding community were in dire need, the Library was the first building on campus to reopen to the public, with regular hours, seven days a week, offering all normal services. The Library even kept its extended hours for finals, remaining open until 1:00am for those few students left on campus after the disaster.

- **John-Bauer Graham, Dean of Library Services, says of the Library’s efforts,** “Several of the surrounding neighborhoods sustained major damage, and we knew we needed to be a beacon of light and hope — literally! we had power, lights, air conditioning, Wi-Fi, and computer access immediately after the storm, while so many others went weeks without. We wanted to provide a place for folks to take refuge, email their adjusters, search for home repair contractors, contact family and friends, fill out FEMA forms, or just catch their breath.”

- **Many Library employees volunteered in the badly damaged neighborhoods behind the Library, helping to clear debris and provide support to those who had lost so much. Despite the issues with its own building, the Library is also doing its utmost to provide support to other campus units impacted by the tornado. Due to the damage sustained by Wallace Hall and the total destruction of Merrill Hall, nursing, business, and political science courses all needed immediate, temporary space to hold classes. The kinesiology department had similar needs. The Library found creative ways to accommodate them all. In addition, the Library offered office space for displaced ROTC, nursing, and drama faculty, and is continuing to assist with orientation groups and nursing classes throughout the summer.**

- **When asked about the impact of the storm on the Library, Graham replies, “We were and are a home, not just to classes that were displaced, but to faculty, staff, and our community. We may be missing a roof, but our patrons and the services, collections, and resources that are housed and sheltered within our University Library are all being tended to and taken care of by outstanding library faculty and staff. We have stood, and are standing, as tall as our building throughout these extraordinary times.”**