Jacksonville State University’s Friends of the Houston Cole Library welcomed Joseph Scott Morgan, 2013 Georgia Author of the Year and JSU Distinguished Scholar of Applied Forensics, to a book talk and signing on September 19 at 7 p.m. on the 11th floor of the Library. Morgan read excerpts from and discussed his recent memoir, Blood Beneath my Feet: The Journey of a Southern Death Investigator.

Morgan, who is also 2013 Georgia Association of College Stores Author of the Year, regularly appears on HLN and CNN as a forensic analyst, where he has offered commentary on high-profile cases such as the Jodi Arias/Travis Alexander case, the George Zimmerman/Trayvon Martin case, the Oscar Pistorius case, the Justin Harris case, the death of Phillip Seymour Hoffmann, and many others.

For fourteen years, Morgan worked as the senior investigator for the Fulton County Medical Examiner’s Office (FCMEO) in Atlanta, managing a staff of 11 medicolegal death investigators while maintaining a personal case load of 200-300 deaths per year. Prior to his tenure at FCMEO, Morgan was a forensic investigator with the Jefferson Parish Coroner’s Office in New Orleans for six years. At the time of his appointment, Morgan was the youngest medicolegal death investigator in the United States. In addition to his death investigative duties, Morgan has served as an autopsy assistant, conducting more than 7,000 autopsies over two decades in two of the South’s most beautiful and violent cities.

Of his recent book and his career, Morgan states, “…I began my journey as the youngest medicolegal...”
The Audio-Visual Department gets a name change to Instructional Media and Special Events

Each semester brings exciting changes for JSU, and this Fall is no different. The Audio-Visual Department, housed on the ground floor of the Library and overseen by Director Tony Gravette, has been revamped and renamed. The department is now known as Instructional Media and Special Events (IMS), and as Mr. Gravette explains, its goal is to provide practical media support for University courses and special events on campus.

When asked about the change and what it will mean for JSU students, faculty and staff, he states:

“Previously known as the Audio-Visual Department, this office remains a well-known staple for our faculty and staff. Our departmental website, among other things, has undergone a transition in order to make submitting equipment requests simpler and less time-consuming for the applicant. There is now a new equipment request form for requesting general media support that is more concise, making it more accommodating for our JSU family to utilize. For more complicated special requests, we ask you to fill out the "Other Requests" form. Other Requests may include: videotaping requests, audio setup for events or equipment maintenance requests.

"IMS is no longer responsible for the purchase of educational films. The films previously held in the department’s office on the ground floor of the Library are being distributed to the appropriate Library floors, along with the different departments in which they will be the most useful. See the subject specialist librarian for acquisition of these collections, which include academic videos and audio recordings. We are still happy to assist university patrons with locating a video or DVD, but this material must be checked out through the Houston Cole Library’s Circulation Desk as of Fall 2014.

“The department’s policy on instructional equipment and delivery will remain the same. Services previously offered such as audio mixing, sound system installation, laptops, televisions and other instructional media equipment lending have not changed. IMS will continue to offer advice and suggestions on classroom media equipment and configurations.

“This restructuring will allow IMS to focus more on assistance with the creation of audio and video recording, audio and video editing, graphic design and other instructional media technology. Please let IMS know if you have any suggestions on how we may improve our department. We are looking forward to a great year!”

Equally excited about the change is the Dean of Library Services, John-Bauer Graham. When asked about the decision to relocate audio-visual materials to the subject floors, he is happy to explain:

“For many students and patrons, finding the right resources can be challenging. With the move, the materials will be more accessible and the research and presentation process will be more accommodating. In a perfect library, all the circulating materials about a topic should be found in the same area, regardless of format. If a patron is looking for materials to check out on Shakespeare, they will now find all the resources about this topic in one area, on the subject floor instead of scattered throughout the Library. This will make it easier for students and patrons to access the resources they need.”

All in all, this change seems to be one that will work best for the JSU community. Faculty and staff at the Library are ready to assist anyone who has questions regarding this change, as well as any who may need guidance in finding materials that have been relocated.

JSTOR & More: New Library Resources

In its ongoing efforts to better meet the research needs of its users, the Library has added several new databases and upgraded and updated some existing resources this Fall.

Two new JSTOR collections have been acquired: Arts & Sciences VII and Arts & Sciences XI. For a list of titles in these collections, see http://about.jstor.org/content/arts-sciences-vii and http://about.jstor.org/content/arts-sciences-xi. The Library’s JS-TOR resources now include Arts & Sciences I, III, IV, V, VII, VIII and IX, as well as Biological Sciences.

Mergent Online is a new addition to the Library’s business resources. This collection, which contains more than 40,000 full video titles and well over 20,000 hours of content, is now called Academic Video Online. For a list of titles in these collections, see http://about.jstor.org/content/arts-sciences-xi. The Library’s JS-TOR resources now include Arts & Sciences I, III, IV, V, VII, VIII and IX, as well as Biological Sciences.

Another new ProQuest product, Research Companion, is a “self-guided product that supports information literacy, writing, and research.” Through video and text guidance, Research Companion helps users find topics, evaluate sources, and avoid plagiarism. For assistance, check out the ProQuest Research Companion Guide.

An upgrade and name change took place for VAST Academic Video Online recently. This collection, which contains more than 40,000 full video titles and over 20,000 hours of content, is now called Academic Video Online: Premium. An extensive list of subjects is covered in video collections, such as Current Affairs, Nursing Education, Criminal Justice and Public Safety, and Fashion Studies.

Also new to the Library is WWD, the archive of Women’s Wear Daily, an influential fashion industry publication which covers fashion, designers, brands, retailers and advertising. This database goes from the first issue in 1910 to one year ago. Included is every page, article, cover, and advertisement.

The process of finding full text articles now looks a little different, since the Library has switched from Serials Solutions to EBSCO A-Z. Searching for journals using the E-Journals tab on the Library’s home page brings up the EBSCO A-Z search page. You can browse titles or subjects, conduct a search, or look through the index using the tabs at the top of the page. Also, you will now see the "Full Text through LinkSource" link within database results.