

## INSIDE

### Library Staff Acknowledged

Three staff members were publicly honored this year for contributions in the digital realm that advance the Library's mission.

**PAGE 3**



### Mapping the Pandemic

The Geography and Map Division hosted a panel of experts on Wednesday who are using modern mapping techniques to help scientists and the public understand the pandemic.

**PAGE 4**



### Q&A: Claudia Morales

The music specialist and concert producer talks about connecting with tens of thousands online while the Coolidge Auditorium is closed to visitors.

**PAGE 5**

### Celebrate the Season

Staff are invited to share favorite holiday memories, photos and recipes for a special December holiday celebration intranet page.

**PAGE 6**



Shawn Miller

Joy Harjo plays saxophone onstage with her band in the Coolidge Auditorium on Sept. 19, 2019, during an event celebrating her appointment as U.S. poet laureate.

## Joy Harjo Appointed to Third Term as Poet Laureate

Harjo's signature project launches during Native American Heritage Month.

**BY LEAH KNOBEL**

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden announced the appointment yesterday of U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo to a third term, making Harjo only the second laureate to receive this extension since the position was established in 1943. A third term, to begin in September 2021, will offer Harjo an opportunity to complete projects and programs whose timelines have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Throughout the pandemic, Joy has shown how poetry can help steady us and nurture us, and I am thankful she is willing to continue

this work on behalf of the country," Hayden said. "A third term will give Joy the opportunity to develop and extend her signature project."

The announcement coincided with the launch of Harjo's signature project, "Living Nations, Living Words: A Map of First Peoples Poetry." Developed in conjunction with the Geography and Map Division and created as a Story-Map (<https://go.usa.gov/x7EFq>), the project maps 47 contemporary Native American poets across the country, including Harjo, Louise Erdrich, Natalie Diaz, Ray Young Bear, Craig Santos Perez, Sherwin Bitsui and Layli Long Soldier.

**POET LAUREATE, CONTINUED ON 6**

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## DONATED TIME

The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Lisa Davis at (202) 707-0033.

Shayerah Akhtar  
Craig Andrews  
Sharif Adenan  
Lynette Brown  
Eric Clark  
Laurie Harris

Sharron Jones  
Laura Monagle  
Terri Harris-Wandix  
Donna Williams  
Eric Wolfson

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## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM INVITES APPLICATIONS

The Workforce Performance and Development Division is now accepting applications for the Leadership Development Program (LDP). The application period closes at 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 8.

LDP is a competency-based training program for staff in GS grades 11-13 interested in developing a foundation for effective leadership and supervision. Fellows participate in learning experiences designed to improve their current performance, enhance their leadership skills and increase their knowledge of Library operations. They also serve in a 120-day acting supervisory role. While not a placement program, LDP supports the Library's succession management strategy, which aims to ensure staffing to meet current and future business needs.

LDP is scheduled to begin in April 2021 and continue through June 2022. For details about the schedule, eligibility requirements and the application process, consult the Library's job announcement at <https://go.usa.gov/x7Nba>.

Questions? Contact Tonya Dorsey, LDP program manager, at [tdor@loc.gov](mailto:tdor@loc.gov).

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## COVID-19 UPDATE

The Health Services Division (HSD) continues to monitor Library staff members with symptoms, clinical diagnoses or positive test results associated with COVID-19. On Nov. 12, HSD announced that 10 employees reported exposure to or symptoms of COVID-19 during the previous week. In addition, two close contacts were identified. Most employees reporting symptoms are not diagnosed with COVID-19, but, out of caution, the Library is monitoring all reports of symptoms.

HSD is communicating with all staff members who become ill. In cases in which ill individuals were present in Library buildings, HSD is also notifying their close work contacts and cleaning and disinfecting the areas affected. The same process is followed when contractors in Library buildings become ill.

More information on the Library's pandemic response: <https://go.usa.gov/xdtV5> (intranet) or <https://go.usa.gov/xdtVQ> (public-facing staff web page)

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## "HILLBILLY ELEGY" MOVIE DISCUSSION

**Nov. 23, 7 p.m.**

The Library and Netflix will host a conversation between film director Ron Howard and J.D. Vance, author of "Hillbilly Elegy," about the creative process of bringing the book to screen. Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden will moderate.

View the conversation on the Library's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/libraryofcongress](http://www.facebook.com/libraryofcongress)) or YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/c/loc>).

[loc.gov/staff/gazette](http://loc.gov/staff/gazette)

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### MISSION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library's central mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

### ABOUT THE GAZETTE

An official publication of the Library of Congress, The Gazette encourages Library managers and staff to submit articles and photographs of general interest. Submissions will be edited to convey the most necessary information.

Back issues of The Gazette in print are available in the Communications Office, LM 143. Electronic archived issues and a color PDF file of the current issue are available online at [loc.gov/staff/gazette](http://loc.gov/staff/gazette).

### GAZETTE WELCOMES LETTERS FROM STAFF

Staff members are invited to use the Gazette for lively and thoughtful debate relevant to Library issues. Letters must be signed by the author, whose place of work and telephone extension should be included so we can verify authorship. If a letter calls for management response, an explanation of a policy or actions or clarification of fact, we will ask for management response.—Ed.

### Library of Congress Gazette

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### GAZETTE DEADLINES

The deadline for editorial copy for the Dec. 4 Gazette is Wednesday, Nov. 25.

Email editorial copy and letters to the editor to [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov) and [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov).

To promote events through the Library's online calendar ([www.loc.gov/loc/events](http://www.loc.gov/loc/events)) and the Gazette Calendar, email event and contact information to [calendar@loc.gov](mailto:calendar@loc.gov) by 9 a.m. Monday of the week of publication.

Boxed announcements should be submitted electronically (text files) by 9 a.m. Monday the week of publication to [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov) and [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov).

# Staff Receive Prestigious Awards, Recognition

Three Library staff members were honored this year for contributions in the digital realm.

BY WENDI A. MALONEY

As the Library's digital operations and holdings continue to grow, staff leading the expansion are being acknowledged publicly for innovative thinking.

Last month, Kate Zwaard, the Library's digital strategy director, received a 2020 Theodore Roosevelt (Teddy) Government Leadership Award for her deployment of technology to encourage deeper exploration and discovery of Library collections. This month, Trevor Owens, head of the Digital Content Management Section, was named a finalist for the 2020 Digital Preservation Awards for his 2018 book, "The Theory and Craft of Digital Preservation."

And earlier this year, as reported in the Feb. 14 issue of the Gazette, Judith Conklin, the Library's deputy chief information officer, was selected as one of Federal Computer Week's Federal 100 award winners.

"The Library has always been home to innovative technical experts, and that is especially true today as we lean into the strategic goal of becoming a more digitally enabled institution," Bud Barton, the Library's chief information officer, said. "It's gratifying to see the hard work underway across the Library to embrace innovation and improve technology get the public recognition it deserves."

Teddy Awards recognize outstanding achievement in advancing the government's promise to serve the American people. Zwaard was honored for her work in leading LC Labs and launching the By the People crowdsourcing transcription project.



**Kate Zwaard participates in a remote interview with Government Executive following her receipt of a Teddy Award.**

In an interview with Government Executive, the business news outlet that sponsors the Teddy Awards, Zwaard described LC Labs as a space to pilot new ways to use technology and automation to uncover Library collections for researchers and the public.

By the People was one of Labs' first experiments. It invites the public to transcribe handwritten or complex typed materials from the Library's collections. Once documents are proofread, also by the public, they are posted on the Library's website, making it possible to search them by keywords.

The project aims, obviously, to make collections more discoverable. But an equally important goal is to engage new audiences with the Library.

"Asking people to volunteer is a really powerful way of showing them that they're welcome" and that the Library is theirs, Zwaard said. About 20,000 people have registered to transcribe documents since the project launched in 2018, and tens of thousands more have used the transcriptions.

She said she herself has experienced the power of the project as

a vehicle for connecting with the Library. "It really touched me," she said of a letter she transcribed by civil rights activist Rosa Parks recounting her arrest in 1955 for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white man. "The sense of having the responsibility of holding her words and making them full-text searchable and sharable in these new ways – that I was part of this chain of history – really spoke to my heart."

Last year, Owens' book won awards from the Society of American Archivists and the American Library Association. It addresses digital preservation in the context of preserving all manner of library collections and offers a framework for building digital preservation programs at libraries small and large.

In announcing the book as an award finalist, the Digital Preservation Coalition cited it for significantly advancing "practice and awareness of digital preservation issues."

The Fed 100 is an annual award that honors leaders from the federal information technology community. Conklin was nominated by Barton, Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden and Principal Deputy Librarian of Congress Mark Sweeney.

"We nominated Judith for this award because of her tireless work to improve Library IT security above and beyond her full-time job as deputy chief information officer," Barton said when the award was announced in February. ■

# Library Hosts Experts on Mapping the Pandemic

Modern mapping is helping scientists and the public understand COVID-19.

BY JOHN HESSLER

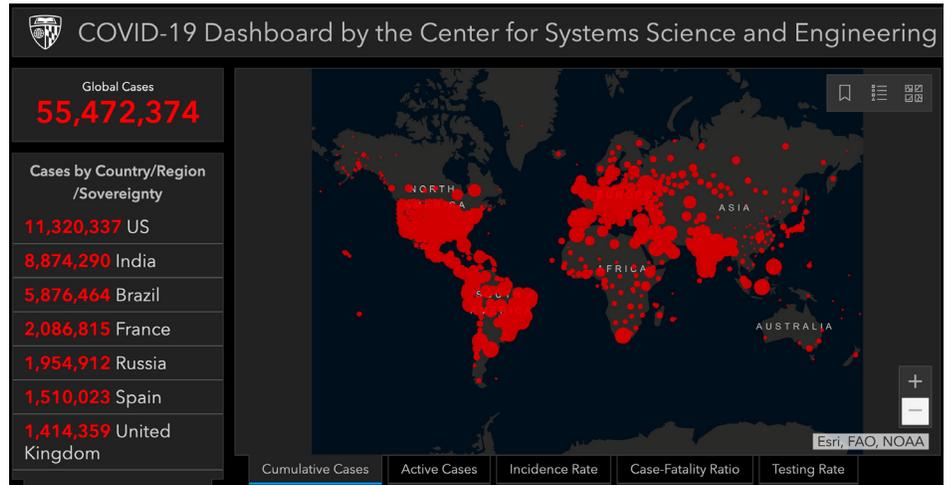
The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a geospatial analysis challenge like no other. To explore what's been accomplished in the world of mapping and what is on the horizon, the Geography and Map Division (G&M) brought together a panel of experts on Wednesday who are at the forefront of using new geographic information science (GIS) to track and fight the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

"Mapping a Pandemic: Cases, Traces and Mutations" took place in honor of GIS Day, an annual celebration of GIS technology.

"Cartography and mapping have been important to addressing the complex issues that face people around the world for many decades," Paulette Hasier, chief of G&M, said.

Experts from Johns Hopkins University and Esri, the world's largest GIS software provider, joined me on Nov. 18 to discuss the geospatial and genomic data being used to understand the pandemic and examine how mapping and GIS technologies are helping public health officials, emergency rooms, epidemiologists and the public grasp the spread of the disease and decide on allocation of precious resources, including vaccines.

For epidemiologists studying the virus and its evolution and mutations, not to mention thinking about distribution of a potential vaccine and personal protective equipment, the pandemic has inspired widespread use of GIS. They are relying on new mapping and computational methods to navigate the virus and on new visualization techniques developed



The Johns Hopkins COVID-19 dashboard has become a critical resource for tracking cases of the virus and deaths around the world.

by cartographers to track the geospatial dynamics of cases and mutations.

Este Geraghty is chief medical officer at Esri and former deputy director of the Center for Health Statistics and Informatics at the California Department of Public Health. She discussed the design and structure of GIS systems and explained how, during this first pandemic of the information age, GIS and spatial visualization have been at the center of efforts to comprehend the virus.

Ensheng Dong, a Ph.D. candidate at Johns Hopkins University, spoke about developing the Johns Hopkins COVID-19 dashboard (<https://bit.ly/3luoTSV>), which has become a critical resource for tracking cases and deaths around the world. He recalled how he began collecting COVID-19 data and how his adviser recognized its importance. His paper, "Historic First: Mapping the Pandemic in Real Time," took its title from a Wall Street Journal description of the now-famous dashboard and its ability to provide updated information about COVID-19.

Mike Schoelen, a former GIS research fellow at the Library who now works for Esri, turned the conference's attention to a com-

plex logistical-analysis problem in the fight against the pandemic that will soon become critical: the distribution of vaccines and personal protective equipment (PPE).

In "Driven by GIS: A Resilient Supply Chain for COVID-19," he highlighted how the ability of GIS tools to analyze multiple layers of geospatial data simultaneously are uniquely suited to pinpoint weak points in the distribution of PPE and prevent failures in the distribution chain for vaccines.

I presented the final paper of the conference, "More Than Just Cases: Mapping the Genome and Mutations of SARS-CoV-2," offering new visualization methods for tracking mutations of SARS-CoV-2 around the world. I also presented my current research, mapping the pathways of transmission from bats (<https://bit.ly/32lr1fR>).

It was important to host a GIS Day amid the pandemic, Hasier said, "especially with GIS playing such a central role in trying to understand one of the most critical issues facing the world at the moment."

View a recording of the conference: <https://youtu.be/LAUW8eV0aFw> ■

# QUESTION & ANSWER



Tom Wolf

**Claudia Morales with Cuban pianist Chucho Valdés, who performed at the Library in October 2019.**

## Claudia Morales

*Claudia Morales is a music specialist and concert producer in the Music Division.*

### **Tell us a little about your background.**

I grew up in Lima, Peru, and studied drama at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru. I come from a family of musicians and grew up playing the violin. In my early 20s, I moved to the U.S. to go to postgraduate school. I attended George Mason University and earned a master's degree in arts management. Before working at the Library, I worked at presenting institutions, including George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium and the Smithsonian's Freer and Sackler galleries in Washington, D.C., and different nonprofit music organizations, including Youth Orchestras of Prince William in Woodbridge, Virginia, and the Arlington Chorale in Arlington, Virginia.

### **What brought you to the Library, and what do you do?**

I was inspired to work in an institution with the world's largest collection of music scores and other music-related materials. I am one of the five producers in the Concerts Office of the Music Division.

We curate the Concerts from the Library of Congress, a series of free concerts and music-related events presented in the Coolidge Auditorium and, since the pandemic, online. You can only offer the kind of projects we do at the Library of Congress. It is so much fun.

The season is underway, and we have fantastic virtual performances, conversations and more. Visit us at [loc.gov/concerts](http://loc.gov/concerts) and find us on our social media platforms.

### **What are some of your standout projects?**

I joined the Library in June 2019 and in March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic came to Washington, D.C. All of our spring events were postponed as a safety precaution, and we struggled at first to connect with our audience quarantining at home. In response, my colleague Solomon Haileselassie and I launched Pick of the Week, a curated playlist of the best past performances matched with digital resources across the Library.

Since March, we have been sending links to the playlist and resources to now close to 40,000 subscribers in weekly emails. Later, this project found its forever home as the first Concerts Office LibGuide. I am proud of this project because it kept our audience company while the world was figuring out what to do during the early stages of the pandemic.

### **What do you enjoy doing outside work?**

I am an outdoor fanatic. I love spending time with my two kids, Mayu and Nayra; my husband, Alex; and our dog, Luna. I love running, hiking, camping, biking, gardening and going to the beach. I also enjoy cooking and baking. I am surviving the pandemic by running every morning before my kids start distance learning and I start teleworking. LOC parents, stay strong!

### **What is something your co-workers may not know about you?**

My co-workers do not know that I hiked the Inca trail in Peru. ■

## **MASKS NOT OPTIONAL IN LIBRARY BUILDINGS**

As more staff are returning to work on-site in Library buildings, the Health Services Division wants to emphasize the importance of the Library's policy on wearing masks: <https://go.usa.gov/xGWss>. They are not optional when staff are in any Library building.

Staff must wear a barrier mask or cloth face covering (<https://go.usa.gov/xGWHq>) over both their noses and their mouths when they arrive at a Library building; when they are in common areas, such as bathrooms, hallways and elevators; and any other time they are not able to maintain at least 6 feet of distance from others, including outside Library buildings.

Questions? Contact the Health Services Division at [hso@loc.gov](mailto:hso@loc.gov) or (202) 707-8035.

A promotional graphic for the Library of Congress Federal Credit Union's Holiday Loan Special. The background is a winter scene with snow-covered trees and houses. The text is in yellow and white. It says "limited time only!" in yellow, "holiday LOAN" in large white letters, "as low as 5.5% APR\*" in large yellow letters, "LOANS up to \$5,000" and "TERMS up to 2 YEARS" in white, and "ho, ho, ho apply today" in yellow. The bottom right corner has "LCFCU.org" and "202.707.5852" in white. The Library of Congress logo is in the top right corner.

\*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Holiday Loan Special is for a **LIMITED TIME ONLY, ENDS 1/31/21** and may be withdrawn without notice. Refinancing of existing LCFCU loans is not permitted. No Discounts apply to the Holiday Loan Special rate. Subject to credit approval and other restrictions may apply, contact us or visit [LCFCU.org](http://LCFCU.org) for details.

# Celebrate the Season!

Because of the pandemic, the Library is moving its popular celebration of the holiday season online this year. With your help, on Dec. 16, a special December holiday celebration page will launch on the intranet featuring staff holiday memories, photos and recipes.

Staff are invited to share comments (up to 300 words) or photos (maximum two per person) to [staffsubmissions@loc.gov](mailto:staffsubmissions@loc.gov) no later than **5 p.m. on Nov. 27**. Submissions should showcase a favorite holiday season or party memory

from the Library; a favorite family holiday tradition; or a favorite holiday recipe.

With photos, include your name, the holiday being celebrated and the year. Note that photos cannot include political or business endorsements or inappropriate language, gestures and so on. Comments and photos submitted by staff will not be accessible by the public.

Other favorite holiday observances – a special message and reading



Shawn Miller

from the Librarian and performances by the LC Chorale – will be shared with the public on [loc.gov](http://loc.gov). ■

## POET LAUREATE, CONTINUED FROM 6

“This has been a challenging year for the country, for our Earth. Poetry has provided doorways for joy, grief and understanding in the midst of turmoil and pandemic,” Harjo said. “I welcome the opportunity of a third term to activate my project and visit communities to share Native poetry. The story of America begins with Native presence, thoughts and words. Poetry is made of word threads that weave and connect us.”

Harjo’s goal for the project is to display, through poetry, the vital and unequivocal roots Native American people have in this country. Some of the earliest indigenous maps of North America were not drawn but were instead communicated through weaving, baskets and songs. Harjo writes in the introduction to her StoryMap that she sees mapping Native American poets as a way to counter damaging false assumptions about them as well as their lack of representation in the cultural storytelling of America.

The map also connects to a new online audio collection housed in the American Folklife Center (<https://go.usa.gov/x7EMc>). Each featured poet in the collection chose an original poem to include based on the themes of place and displacement, and the ideas of

visibility, persistence, resistance and acknowledgement. The collection comprises sound recordings, transcripts, poems, photos and biographies for each poet.

Harjo’s project, which has been in the works since the start of her laureateship, intentionally connects with Library collections.

“Leading up to the announcement of Joy’s appointment, she met with Library Collections and Services Group staff,” Rob Casper, head of the Poetry and Literature Center, said. “This laid the groundwork for her laureate project, which more than any other highlights and engages with our collections.”

Harjo, the first Native American poet laureate, began her tenure in June 2019; to celebrate the start of her term, a poetry reading and concert was held in the Coolidge Auditorium that September. An event marking the end of her first term this year was canceled because of closure of the Library’s public buildings in response to the pandemic. Harjo began her second term on Sept. 1.

Despite the pandemic, Harjo has kept busy in the virtual environment. During the 2020 National Book Festival, for example, she read from her recent poetry collection, “An American Sunrise: Poems,” and appeared in an accompanying PBS broadcast

special. Harjo’s work has also been featured in “The Poetry of Home,” a new video series from the Washington Post and the Library featuring four U.S. poet laureates on the theme of “home” during a time when so many Americans are sheltering in place.

Harjo was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on May 9, 1951, and is the author of nine books of poetry, including “An American Sunrise”; “Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings”; “The Woman Who Fell from the Sky,” which received the Oklahoma Book Arts Award; and “In Mad Love and War,” which received an American Book Award and the Delmore Schwartz Memorial Award.

Harjo has also written a memoir, “Crazy Brave,” which won the 2013 PEN Center USA literary prize for creative nonfiction, as well as a children’s book, “The Good Luck Cat,” and a young adult book, “For a Girl Becoming.” Harjo recently released her co-edited anthology, “When the Light of the World Was Subdued, Our Songs Came Through: A Norton Anthology of Native Nations Poetry.”

Harjo has taught at the University of California, Los Angeles, and was until recently a professor and chair of excellence at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She has since returned to her hometown of Tulsa, where she holds a Tulsa Artist Fellowship. ■