

Wayne Morse Jr.

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Tell us a little about the work you've done at Emory throughout your career.

I was hired in 1997 to do something with the equipment that Apple Computer had left with Emory after they were webcasting the 1996 Olympics. Throughout my time at Emory, I have been a part of creating several firsts at the University, with the partnership of other wonderful people. These include: 1st website for class content; 1st web authoring classes (Netscape Navigator, Dreamweaver); 1st class videoconference (Unix); 1st learning management system at Emory (WebCT); 1st class capture system using video; 1st set of laptops for class use; 1st set of iPads for class use; 1st faculty workshop on teaching with technology; 1st graduate workshop on teaching with technology; 1st training program for graduate students on digital literacy and tools for 21st century learning; 1st classroom with fully movable furniture; creation of a center for digital pedagogy (cited by SACS during Emory's accreditation) and center for digital scholarship; creation of Cox Hall computing center; and 1st course for how to teach online. At Emory, I've always worked inside a library but I'm not a librarian. The organization I work with has changed its name several times, including Library and Information Technology Systems, and eventually back to the Office of Information Technology.

What are some of your favorite memories of your time at Emory?

All my favorite memories center around the wonderful colleagues I've had over the past 25 years, the many faculty with whom I have become good friends, and the numerous students who still stay in touch with me many years after graduation. Other favorite memories include having the opportunity to blaze new trails using technology in teaching, learning, and scholarship; and being able to see people like Desmond Tutu and have lunch with his Holiness the Dalai Lama.



Wayne in the in the digital pedagogy center in the early 2000's

What are some of the most significant changes you have witnessed over the course of your career?

Of course, Emory's campus seems to have constantly changed over the past 25 years. In my field, there have been so many changes in technology during my career. I was lucky to work in information technology during the birth and growth of the Internet. The ability to connect faculty, students, and researchers from all over the globe has become common place. During the earlier part of my career, I was part of the first online video connection for teaching using the Internet. That first connection was for a graduate level history class between Emory and Germany. At that time, it took three of us to make that connection happen for every class period. Things like creating a digital video and building a website used to take hours of instruction and high-priced hardware and software. Now all that can be done on phones.

Is there anything you miss from "back in the day"?

Not to sound too nostalgic, but back in the day it seemed as though people understood that technology still required some luck to work correctly. Now, everyone expects things to work perfectly every time. We all know this isn't the case and that there still is a lot that depends on quality people who support these technologies...and, also luck sometimes.

What do you hope for the future of Emory?

I hope Emory continues to leverage the strength of breaking down barriers between departments and that true interdisciplinary partnerships continue to flourish, including partnerships between the University and Healthcare sides of the enterprise. When I first started 25 years ago, I was told not to speak with faculty and that I was in a support role only. One day a senior faculty member asked me who I was, and we began a conversation that grew into a friendship. That friendship became a true partnership that was part of many firsts at the University. The idea of partnerships between all parts of the University is critical to its continued success.

Is there anything else you would like to share?

I've been lucky and blessed to work in a very dynamic part of Emory that I feel has made positive impacts on faculty, staff, and students. Through my work I've always stressed the ideas of outreach, accessibility, and public engagement. My deepest thanks to everyone for giving me this opportunity and supporting me in this work.