Athens Regional Library news and notes

The Public Library Association Awards Committee has selected the Athens-Clarke County Library for its 2007 Highsmith Award for Innovation. The Athens Library was selected for its Pinewoods Program and the partnerships the library has formed throughout the Athens community. The award and a $2,000 check will be presented to Kathryn Ames, Director, at the President's Dinner during ALA. The Athens Library opened a branch facility in a Latino mobile home park. The branch includes 12 public computers, a large bilingual collection of materials, an art program and adult education programs — including ESL and Plaza Comunitaria — and provides a wide range of public programming. Partnerships include such diverse groups as the Lyndon House Arts Center, the Mexican Consulate, the College of Education at UGA, volunteer tutors from the community, International Public Service and Outreach, the local hospitals and medical services and local churches. The program has been a model for replication for several other library systems in the Southeast and was funded with an IMLS grant and local funding.

Chestatee Regional Library news and notes

On Saturday, February 3, 2007, 50 aspiring children’s book authors from across the state gathered at Dawson County Library for a free workshop on writing and marketing children’s books. The workshop was presented by Lola Schaefer, author of more than 200 children’s books. Ms. Schaefer shared her invaluable knowledge on how to break into the children’s book industry, how to submit a manuscript, how to determine if your idea is marketable, the craft of writing, revision, and how to manage a writer’s life.

Because of her background as an elementary classroom teacher for 18 years, Lola authors early-reader biographies and books about the natural world for the school/library market. She visits many elementary and middle school classrooms each year, both as an author-in-residence and as a writing consultant. Lola has been an impassioned presenter for more than 20 years. Today she combines the understandings of current educational research with sound writing techniques so that teachers and students can immediately experience the benefits of successful writing communities in their classrooms (from http://www.lolaschaefer.com/visits.html).

Response was so overwhelming that a “second chance” workshop was scheduled for Saturday, March 10.