GSU's Long Named "2009 Mover & Shaker" by Library Journal

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Library Day brings together 300 legislators, advocates

Almost 300 library advocates celebrated their love for and support of libraries at the annual Georgia Library Day, held Feb. 26 at the Floyd Building in downtown Atlanta. The sold-out event was again co-sponsored by the Georgia Library Association (GLA), the Georgia Association for Instructional Technology (GAIT), the Georgia Library Media Association (GLMA) and Georgia Public Library Service.

Among the morning’s highlights was the address delivered by Sen. Jack Hill (R-Reidsville), chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Hill commended Gov. Sonny Perdue’s budget recommendations for fiscal year 2010, which included almost $19 million to assist with the design and construction of 11 important new library projects throughout the state. “I don’t think you could invest in a better piece of infrastructure than libraries,” Hill said.

Other speakers included Jim Cooper, president of GLA; Dr. Lamar Veatch, state librarian; Pam Smith of the Georgia Department of Education; Merryl Penson, executive director of Library Services for the University System of Georgia; Giselle Escobar, president of GAIT; Susan Grigsby, president of GLMA; Christian Kruse, chairman of the Georgia Council of Public Libraries; and Wally Eberhard, president of Friends of Georgia Libraries.

Following the program, attendees walked across the street to the Capitol, where they visited a number of legislators to thank them for their support and to further advocate on behalf of their local libraries. Attendees then returned to the Floyd Building for lunch.

Rep. Bob Smith (R-Watkinsville), vice chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, hosted an afternoon gathering for library directors and board members who have capital projects recommended by the governor on this year’s list.

Held at the Capitol, the meeting afforded library representatives and advocates the opportunity to express their enthusiastic support for the construction projects in their communities.

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In its March issue, Library Journal added Georgia State University librarian Casey Long to its list of “Movers & Shakers” for 2009.

The magazine selected Long because of her determination to improve student information literacy. As a business liaison librarian for the Georgia State University Library, Long found that many seniors in the business program were not adequately prepared to do their research. In 2006 and 2007, she received instruction awards from the College of Business and the University Center for Teaching and Learning. Both were for developing an instruction session that she quantitatively proved to be effective at improving how students find
and utilize information. Armed with this evidence, Long is convincing business instructors to integrate an undergraduate information literacy program into their core business classes. By working strategically with three core courses, Long hopes to ensure all undergraduate business students are prepared with the information-seeking skills necessary for success in their careers.

She maintains this engaging curriculum by sustaining relationships with faculty throughout the business school. Casey Long’s commitment to assisting the university community is why Library Journal selected her for the Movers & Shakers of 2009. Through her “zealous pursuit” of a thriving information literacy program, she is helping define the future of libraries with fresh ideas and devoted service.

Agnes Scott College news and notes
Erica Bodnar has joined Agnes Scott College as access services librarian. She holds an MLS degree from Indiana University and bachelor’s degree in art history from the University of Georgia. She previously worked for the libraries at Oglethorpe University and Georgia Tech.

Augusta State library news and notes
Augusta State University (ASU) will receive a grant under the new American Heritage Preservation Program awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Bank of America Charitable Foundation. “With these awards, communities will be able to rescue exceptional objects that link their pasts to their futures,” said Anne-Imelda M. Radice, IMLS director. “This grant program is an important part of IMLS’ Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action, a multiyear, multipronged initiative to protect our national treasures.”

ASU will purchase environmental-monitoring equipment and software to help maintain proper storage conditions for library special collection materials and archeological artifacts. Among the materials benefiting from this monitoring will be colonial-era Georgia documents and Southeastern Native American artifacts dating from the Mississippian period.

Emory University library news and notes
Xuemao Wang has been selected for the newly established position of associate vice provost (AVP) for the Emory University Libraries. Wang comes to Emory from The Johns Hopkins University, where he served as head of library systems for the Sheridan Libraries. As AVP, he will work closely with Rick Luce, vice provost and director of libraries, to implement the libraries’ vision and strategic initiatives. Wang will have direct responsibilities for managing the General Libraries’ operational areas for general collections, technical services and user services. “Wang joins the library’s leadership team at a time when innovations in methods of scholarship, learning and research — and the technology infrastructure that advances those innovations — are radically transforming the role of Emory’s research library and its staff,” said Luce. During his tenure at Johns Hopkins, Wang led a strategic initiative across its five-campus library system to establish a foundation for collaboratively sharing information technologies and services.

Emory University Libraries has also named Kevin Young curator of literary collections at the Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library.

Georgia Southern news and notes
Georgia Southern University celebrated the expansion and renovation of the Zach S. Henderson Library with a ribbon cutting Jan. 21 in the library atrium. Hosted by President Bruce Grube, the event culminated a major capital project that began in the summer of 2004. The $22.75 million expansion/renovation added 101,000 square feet to the library’s original 132,000.

“IT is tremendous to see this dream come true and be so enthusiastically received by students and faculty,” said Bede Mitchell, dean of the library. “This is a critical project to the university and has significance beyond what most people can imagine,” President Grube said. “When we can improve the major academic resource on campus, we can improve everything we’re doing academically.”

The library has come a long way since Georgia Southern’s days as First District A&M School – when the first library was housed in a small room in the Marvin Pittman Administration Building with 1,000 volumes, pamphlets and bulletins and 50 magazines and periodicals. The Rosenwald Library opened on Sweetheart Circle in 1938, and the Zach S. Henderson Library opened in today’s location in 1975.

The current library opened to the public on Sept. 22, 2008. It houses more than 600,000 books and bound periodicals; 890,000 microform units; almost 750,000 government documents; and more than 46,000 electronic journals. The library has more than 300 computers, and wireless is available throughout the building.