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News - University of West Georgia

E. Lorene Flanders

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*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

University of West Georgia

Professor and Dean of Libraries E. Lorene Flanders retired from the University of West Georgia (UWG) in March 2017. She began her career in libraries in 1976 as a student assistant in the Willet Memorial Library at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia, and as a summer bookmobile assistant with the Oconee Regional Library System in Dublin, Georgia in 1977, later serving as young adult librarian for the system. Cobb County Public Library Director Mary Louise Rhey hired Flanders as children's librarian in 1980 after she completed library school at the University of South Carolina. In 1989 she joined Georgia College & State University (GC&SU) as instruction librarian. During her career with GC&SU, she served as associate director of instruction & reference services and associate university librarian.

Appointed at the University of West Georgia (UWG) in 2005, Flanders established Ingram Library's Penelope Melson Society in 2008 and served on the Board of Friends of Georgia Libraries, representing the University System of Georgia's (USG) Regents Academic Committee on

Libraries. She also served on the USG Chancellor's committee to oversee the transfer of the Georgia Department of Archives and History to the University System. Under her direction, Ingram Library's service, instruction, and collections—augmented with active outreach through exhibits, programs, and performances—made the library the academic heart of the campus and its cultural crossroads.

Flanders oversaw the 2011 renovation of the UWG library and the installation of a replica of the State Capitol Office of the late Georgia House Speaker Thomas Bailey Murphy (1924-2007) and supporting exhibits. The

Murphy Office was dedicated in 2012, with former governors Hon. Roy Barnes and the Hon. Sonny Perdue, Rep. Calvin Smyre, Judge Michael Murphy, and Speaker Murphy's former Chief of Staff Steve Anthony as featured

speakers, with Speaker David Ralston and every living former speaker of the Georgia House in attendance. Ingram Library and Houser Walker Architects won a 2013 Georgia AIA award for design excellence for the Ingram Library Renovation and Speaker Murphy Office Project. Under Flanders' direction, the Annie Bell Weaver Special Collections expanded and the UWG



Dean of Libraries Lorene Flanders speaking at an event celebrating her career in Georgia libraries, 1976-2017



Eva Rose Schultz Warner and Jordan Campbell performing in UWG's Ingram Library at Dean Flanders's retirement celebration March 30, 2017.

Center for Public History moved to Ingram Library. Notable collection acquisitions included the papers of Ingo Swann, a noted parapsychology practitioner, and Congressman Lynn Westmoreland. The Westmoreland Collection was the fifth congressional collection added to UWG's Georgia's Political Heritage Program collections, which began with the acquisition of the papers of US House Speaker Newt Gingrich under the direction of Dr. Mel Steely. Flanders chaired the Georgia Library Association (GLA) Awards Committee and the Academic



Dean of Libraries Lorene Flanders receives a gavel and sounding board from the family of the late Georgia House Speaker Thomas Bailey Murphy, 1924-2007. Speaker Murphy's State Capitol office was replicated in the University of West Georgia's Ingram Library and dedicated in 2012.

Library Division of the association, and represented GLA on the Governing Council of the American Library Association (ALA) 2012–2015. She served on ALA's first Emerging Leaders Committee and as bibliographer for the Georgia Historical Society, co-authoring the annual bibliography of

Georgia history published in the *Georgia Historical Quarterly*. She is past secretary of the Southeastern Library Association (SELA) and past chair of SELA's Southern Books Competition Committee.

The University of West Georgia honored Lorene Flanders with a reception and farewell concert on March 30, 2017. UWG President Dr. Kyle Marrero, President Emeritus Dr. Beheruz Sethna, Provost Dr. Micheal Crafton, Dr. John Ferling, president of the Melson Society, Judge Michael Murphy, and Associate Dean of Libraries and incoming Interim Dean Chris Huff spoke at the event. Performers included musicians David Pippin, the bands Sweet and Salty and Eva Rose and the Bottom Line, and singer and guitarist Jordan Campbell, daughter of Lorene Flanders and her husband Paul Campbell. The event was livestreamed to their son, US Navy Corpsman Hart Campbell, who is serving in Kuwait with the Third Battalion Seventh Marines.

Lorene Flanders has been appointed executive director of USA Libraries at the University of South Alabama in Mobile.



Exhibit on the career of Dean of Libraries Lorene Flanders.