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Georgia Library Association - GLA Officer Candidates for 2018

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

Georgia Library Association GLA Officer Candidates for 2018

First Vice-President / President Elect

Jimmy Bass, Coweta County Public Library Director



Jimmy Bass serves as the director for the Coweta County Library System. He began his professional career at the Dougherty County Public Library where he held a variety of positions. Jimmy has served on numerous professional and community boards including Regents Public Library Advisory Committee (RPLAC), Georgia Council of Public Libraries, Newnan Kiwanis Club, CLICK (Certified Literate is Coweta's Key), Georgia Gold Committee, and the Information Access Company. He is currently serving his second term as president of Georgia Council and CLICK. He also was an executive board member for Newnan Kiwanis Club and is a past vice-president of the club. Jimmy is a proud graduate of the inaugural Pinnacle Institute class of 2007–2008.

Jimmy received a master's in library and information science from Florida State University and a BS degree in Political Science from Georgia Southwestern University.

When not at the library or out speaking about the library, he enjoys spending time with his family, performing music, and reading a good book.

Jennifer Lautzenheiser, Middle Georgia Regional Library Director

Jennifer Lautzenheiser serves as the director for the Middle Georgia Regional Library (MGRL) System. Prior to joining MGRL, she served as the assistant director for public services at Henry County Library System, and head of circulation for Perry Public Library in Houston County.

Jennifer has an MLIS from Valdosta State University, BS in Organizational Leadership from Urbana University, and AA in Accounting from Sinclair Community College. While attending Valdosta, she was a recipient of the Laura Bush "Librarians Build Community" Fellowship Award, which focused on the library as active community builder. Her unique educational



background and experience in both business and military service has served her well in library administration.

Jennifer believes strongly that the future of librarianship is in its service aspect. The key skills that our communities need most from libraries are information literacy and navigation tools necessary to improve their lives. Additionally, whether one is paraprofessional or holds an advanced degree in library service, our community members identify us all as librarians. Making sure that all library staff members have the support and resources available to meet our community needs should be the number one goal of leadership in our organizations and our association.

Jennifer is a graduate of the Georgia Public Library Service and Carl Vinson School of Government's PINNACLE program, which develops the emerging leaders in Georgia libraries. She was recently named the Georgia Librarian of the Year for 2016. Jennifer has presented at state and regional level conferences on best practices in private funding of library initiatives, innovative programming, and advocacy success. She has guest lectured to VSU MLIS students on "E-Book Acquisition: Different Models."

Jennifer has been a member of Georgia Library Association since 2013. She has previously served on the Membership Committee and as the Book Review Editor for the Georgia Library Quarterly. Jennifer is the program chair for the Downtown Macon Rotary Club and is on the Parent Advisory Board for her children's school. Any remaining time is in service to her son's scout troop and her church. She is also the steward of her very own Little Free Library: Whooville Public. When not trying to save the world through literacy and economic initiatives, she spends her time with her husband, Brian; two children, Payton and Heath; and a rambunctious Boxer/Pit mix, Sir Charles Barkley.

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Vice-President for Membership

Oscar Gittemeier

Oscar Gittemeier currently serves as the adult outreach librarian for the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System (AFPLS). He received a BA in Sociology and an MA in Women's Studies from Georgia State University, and a master's in library and information science, with a certificate in Leadership and Management, from Florida State University. Oscar is a former Beard Scholarship recipient and a 2016 graduate of the Georgia Public Library Service PINNACLE Leadership Institute. Over the last nine years he has worked as a library associate, youth services librarian, and branch manager. During his time with AFPLS he secured five grants, including STEAM equipment and paid teen internships, and he coauthored a \$250,000 teen tech center grant. Oscar has served on several AFPLS committees, including collection development, Money Smart Week, Summer Reading, and the mini-grant review committee. Within GLA, he served as co-chair of the Atlanta



Emerging Librarians, vice-chair and chair of the Reference and Instructional Services Interest Group, and he currently serves as chair of the Professional and Continuing Education Interest Group.

In addition to all of the above, his passion for libraries is informed by his experiences as a teenage parent, a queer transman, and as someone who struggled to maintain housing while acquiring the above mentioned education. It was audiobooks from the public library that helped Oscar graduate from his alternative high school, it was LGBT books from the public library that assured him he was not alone, and when Oscar and his son were living in a shelter it was the public library that provided a safe space. Libraries ARE for everyone, but for Oscar they were a lifeline. For all of these reasons, Oscar has a contagious and unbridled passion for libraries that he would love to pour into GLA.

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Secretary

Ben Bryson

Ben Bryson has served as the assistant director for the Marshes of Glynn Libraries in Glynn County, Georgia, since July 2015. In this role, he wears a variety of hats—programming, cataloging, grant writing, marketing, reporting, budget planning, and webmaster—to name just a few. He received his BA in sociology and anthropology from Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania and received his MLIS from Florida State University in 2009. His professional library career began that same year in the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) at Altamaha Technical College as a reference and instruction librarian. He was named interim director of library services there in 2013, and then, following a merger, the assistant director of library services for Coastal Pines Technical College in 2014.

Since joining the librarian ranks, Ben has enjoyed attending library conferences such as COMO (and running the Pat Carterette Memorial Run/Walk), the Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy (GaCOIL), and the ACRL Conference. During this time, he has also presented at COMO, GaCOIL, and other venues such as the TCSG Library Council, GPLS Public Library Directors Meeting, and a Carterette Series Webinar. Other statewide contributions to supporting our libraries include serving as a representative from the TCSG on the USG Next Generation/Alma Exploratory Committee, participating in the GALILEO Strategic Planning process as a public library representative, and last, but not least, volunteering at the GLA Scholarship Raffle tables during COMO.

Ben grew up in Coastal Georgia and is appreciative of the opportunity to give back to those communities as a librarian. He and his wife live on St. Simons Island with their dog and cat. When he is not at work,



you are likely to see him out running on the Island's trail system or the streets of Brunswick's Old Town Historic District.

Mary Young

Mary Young is the administrative services librarian at the Uncle Remus Regional Library System where she focuses on human resources and legal issues. Before changing careers to pursue her love of libraries, Mary worked as an attorney for a small-town firm. She obtained her master of library and information science in 2011 and has since dedicated herself to public libraries.

Mary currently serves as parliamentarian for the GLA Executive Board and as secretary for the GLA Intellectual Freedom Interest Group. Further, she is a member of the Freedom to Read Foundation. Mary will graduate from PINNACLE in October, concluding a year-long professional development experience with the presentation of a white paper at the Georgia Libraries Conference.

Mary often jokes that she is a stereotypical librarian. She has four cats, loves to knit, and spends her free time traveling and reading.



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American Library Association (ALA) Chapter Councilor

Tamika Barnes

Tamika Barnes currently works for the University Library as the department head for Perimeter Library Services at Georgia State University. This position coordinates the work of five Perimeter College library facilities in the metro Atlanta area. Prior to consolidation she was the library director for the Dunwoody campus at Georgia Perimeter College. Before her time in Georgia, Tamika went to school and began her library career in North Carolina.

Tamika received her biology degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her MLS from North Carolina Central University. She began her librarian career in 1999 at North Carolina State University as the engineering services librarian. In 2003 she moved into management and became the head of reference and information literacy at North Carolina A&T State University. In 2005 she went to



work as the library director at the US Environmental Protection Agency library in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, which was a contract position through the University of North Carolina's library school.

Tamika stays active in the profession and currently serves as an ALA councilor at-large for the American Library Association, a council representative on the Council Planning and Budget Assembly, a Dr. E. J. Josey ACRL Spectrum Scholar Mentor, and chair of GLA's Special Library and Information Services Division.

In the past she has served on the board for the North Carolina Chapter of the Special Libraries Association as the president elect, director and chair of the Career Development Committee. Tamika has also served on the national level for the Special Libraries Association as an elected member of the Board of Directors, membership chair for the Science and Technology Division, and member and later chair of the Diversity Committee.

Kimberly Boyd

Kimberly Boyd is the undergraduate instruction coordinator for Brenau University. In addition to overseeing the undergraduate instruction program, she leads semester-long classes for the undergraduate science, graduate psychology, and graduate business departments as well as for first year experience. Before coming to Brenau, the excellent librarians at Georgia State University (previously, Georgia Perimeter College) initiated her into the wonderful world of librarianship at both the Clarkston and Alpharetta campuses.

Kimberly has been active in GLA since the beginning of her library career. While still working on her MLIS, she served as co-chair of the Atlanta Emerging Librarians Planning Committee (2011). She has also served as vice-chair and chair of the Scholarship Committee (2012–2013), chair of the New Members Round Table (2014), and chair of the Nominating Committee (2016). She received the McJenkin-Rhey award in 2015, which is given to librarians early in their careers who have made outstanding contributions to GLA. She is currently one of three moderators of the GLA-sponsored Carterette Webinar Series. She also serves as an ex-officio member of the GLA Executive Board. Recently, Kimberly completed her role as the GLA Academic Library Division's ACRL Chapters Council Representative (2015–2017) where she has served as secretary for two consecutive years (2016–2017).



Kimberly loves meeting other librarians, sharing ideas, and finding new and innovative ways to provide professional development opportunities. As ALA Councilor, she would continue her work of promoting Georgia's excellent library ecosystem to the national community. She would be honored if elected to represent GLA.