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East Central Georgia News and Notes

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Snacking on candy

A Komatsu 450 dinosaur and a smaller monster named Godzilla are chewing down an old, abandoned candy factory, clearing the site for a new library in downtown Augusta. The new Augusta-Richmond County headquarters library will contain 90,000 square feet of space, and it is scheduled to open in the summer of 2009. (Photo by Bob Munger)

East Central Georgia news and notes

Award-winning Georgia author Melissa Faye Greene was the featured speaker at the Friends of the Augusta Library annual meeting held February 5. A reception and book-



Greene signs a book for Miriam Zecharias at the Friends of the Augusta Library meeting, held at Augusta State University. (Photo by Saralyn Ingram)

signing followed the discussion of Ms. Greene's latest book, *There is No Me without You: One Woman's Odyssey To Rescue Africa's Children*. The Friends of the Library elected new officers for 2007-2008 including: president, Will Brown; vice president, Polly H. Williams; secretary, Beth Brown; and treasurer, Todd Schultz. ►►

Georgia Southern news and notes

Henderson Library information services librarians have recently been traveling abroad, east and west, to deliver papers. Robert Fernekes and LiLi Li attended the IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) World Library and Information Congress in Seoul, South Korea, in August. Fernekes' paper was "Partnering for Student

Learning: The University Library Information Commons." Three days later, Li delivered his paper, "Building the Ubiquitous Library in the 21st Century," which has since been translated into French, German and Russian, and is accessible online at <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/papers/140-Li-en.pdf>.

Rebecca Ziegler traveled to Stirling, Scotland, in October to the 13th Conference of the International Society for Religion. Her paper, "The Kingdom of Heaven on Earth, According to Karen Blixen, David Lodge, and Ann Patchett," examined Blixen's story "Babette's Feast," Lodge's *Paradise News* and Patchett's *Bel Canto*.

Lisa P. Smith has returned as an information services librarian after a stint as outreach medical librarian for the Magnolia Coastlands AHEC (Area Health Education Center). She also serves in the new role of information literacy coordinator. ►►

Hall County Library news and notes

The Hall County Library System has been named one of nine winners in the Public Library Association's (PLA) "Grow Your Own @ Your Library" institutional scholarship pilot program.

"We could not be more excited," said system Director Adrian Mixson. "We currently have more than 10 percent of our staff enrolled in a library science program, and this grant will help offset some of what it costs them for textbooks and tuition."

The highly competitive PLA program was developed to address the educational needs of public library staff. This year, the organization awarded \$8,000 grants to each of nine public libraries, one from each of the nine Public Library Data Service (PLDS) population categories. Hall County took the prize for library systems with a service population between 100,000-249,999.



Since its beginning in 1997, Mixson said, the Hall County Library System has established a tradition of nurturing paraprofessional development and encouraging willing employees to pursue professional librarianship as a career.

Hall County Library System employees pursuing degrees in library science are (from left): Leslie James, Ronda Sanders, John McConnell and Vonda Henderson.