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## Hall County Library 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.

Since that time, five staff members have earned master's degrees in library science, and four are currently pursuing degrees. Of those who have completed degrees, three went to work in public library settings, one went to work for the University of Georgia's electronic library (GALILEO), and one is working for Auburn University's library and pursuing a doctoral degree.

The Hall County Library System, with the support of the Northeast Georgia Historical & Genealogical Society, was host to an Ulster Historical Foundation Workshop on February 21 at the Blackshear Place Library. All the way from "the old country," two scholars helped researchers and genealogists solve many puzzling questions. The workshop was led by Dr. Brian Trainor, who has served as director of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and chairman of the Irish Manuscripts Commission, and Dr. William Roulston, research director of the Ulster Historical Foundation. ►►

### Screven-Jenkins Regional news and notes



From left: Wilma Gainey, branch manager of the Jenkins County Memorial Library, Harry O'Donoghue and Wendy Weinberger.

The Screven-Jenkins Regional Library System hosted performances by Harry O'Donoghue, an Irish folksinger from Savannah, earlier this year.

O'Donoghue performed at the Screven Library on February 11 and at the Jenkins County Memorial Library on March 13.

"He was a great hit," said library Director Wendy Weinberger. "More than 90 patrons attended the Screven performance, and 45 attended the Jenkins performance. For us, that is a lot of people." ►►

### South Georgia Regional news and notes

One recent Saturday morning in the Back Door Bookstore, the Friends-operated shop located in the rear of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Library, a very pretty 8-year-old approached the volunteers and stated that she was there to be a volunteer. This was a surprise; generally, FOL volunteers are quite a bit older. But this youngster was determined. She immediately started helping to

figure the value of purchases and bagging books. As the morning wore on, we learned that our newest volunteer was named Ashley Bilak and, despite only being in third grade, she had already made a vocation decision to be a librarian (when she grows up). She even showed up looking the part, with her hair obligatorily pulled up in a bun. "I thought you had to wear your hair in a bun to work at the library," Ashley recalls.



Bilak

The library has a general rule that volunteers have to be 18 years of age or older. In this case, because Ashley's desire was so great, it was decided that as long as she was accompanied by a parent, she would be allowed to volunteer regularly. Ashley often arrived at the library on Saturday mornings with her father, Ted Bilak, in tow. On days that the bookstore is closed, staff members find other duties for her, such as rubber-stamping due date cards. Now, when her gymnastics schedule permits, Ashley continues to loyally give her time, energy and enthusiasm. She's been reading, she claims, since she was 2 and relishes her time helping out. In an age when television, video games and computers seem more important to kids than books, it is refreshing to meet someone like Ashley who is already so passionate about the printed word.

And, while Ashley isn't yet eligible for the position of library director, we have no doubt that at a later date, she may well be the candidate with the appropriate credentials and longest possible work history with the SGRL system. At this rate, she'll have 10 years of service by the time she's out of high school! ►►

### Three Rivers Regional news and notes

The Magnolia Coastlands Area Health Education Center has awarded the Wayne County Public Library a \$3,000 grant for the purchase of library materials on the topic of HIV/AIDS. This funding derives from an award of a National Library of Medicine RFQ to the Magnolia Coastlands Health Education Center.

Hog Hammock Public Library hosted "Rhythms of a Different Motion," a hands-on drumming workshop, on Jan. 13, 2007. The guest drumming instructor was Kofi McDonald of "Expressions of Africa." The workshop was sponsored by the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation. ►►

