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South Georgia Regional News and Notes

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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. ►►

