April 2007

South Georgia Regional News and Notes

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Recommended Citation
(2007) "South Georgia Regional News and Notes," Georgia Library Quarterly: Vol. 44 : Iss. 1 , Article 23.
Available at: https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol44/iss1/23

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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 pursing 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.

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**Screven-Jenkins Regional news and notes**

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.”

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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.

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**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.